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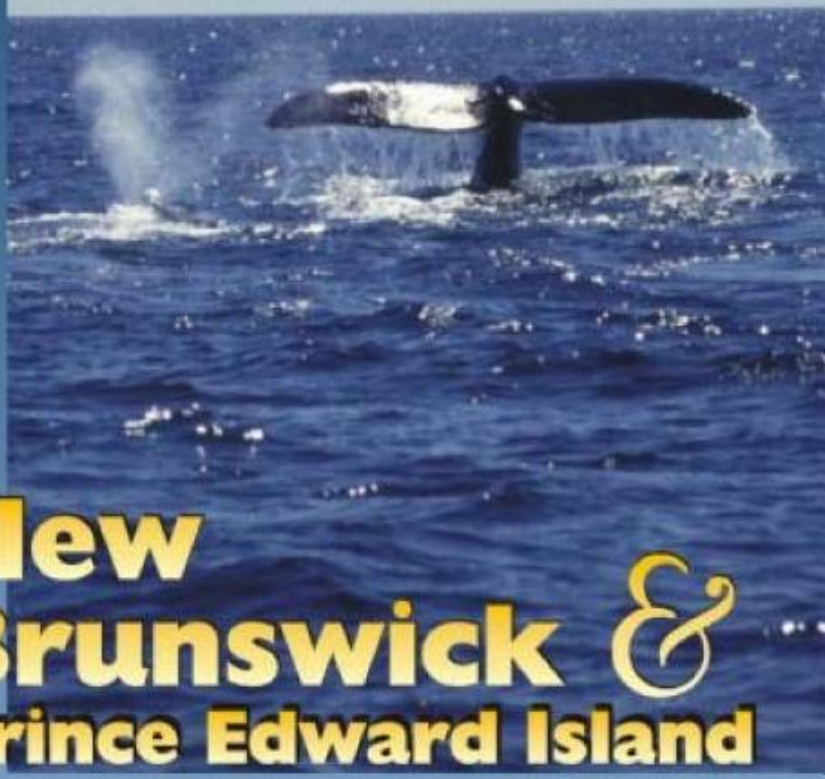

New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

Barbara Radcliffe Rogers & Stillman Rogers

VISIT…

Adventure Guide to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

Barbara Radcliffe Rogers
& Stillman Rogers

Hunter Publishing, Inc.

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New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

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HUNTER

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IN CANADA:
Ulysses Travel Publications
4176 Saint-Denis, Montréal, Québec
Canada H2W 2M5
☎ 514-843-9882 ext. 2232 / fax 514-843-9448

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:
Windsor Books International
The Boundary, Wheatley Road, Garsington
Oxford, OX44 9EJ England
☎ 01865-361122 / fax 01865-361133

ISBN 1-58843-118-5
© 2002, Barbara Radcliffe Rogers & Stillman Rogers

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Authors' Foreword

Our adventures in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island go back to the very first days of our marriage, when we chose to explore these provinces on our honeymoon. We set out for two weeks in August in a gutsy little TR-4, without hotel reservations, but with a good road map and a sense of humor. Our car's bigger now – to hold all the camping equipment and to carry racks for the bikes and kayaks – and the growing popularity of the provinces has made reservations wise in the summer, but we still carry a good map and the sense of humor.

We've traveled much of the world together, and with the family that grew from that marriage that we celebrated on that honeymoon in the TR4. But no place on earth has constantly offered all of us so many adventures or so many chances to broaden our repertoire of outdoor activities. In these two provinces we first went deep-sea fishing, dug our first clams, saw our first whales, found our first fossils, paddled our first kayaks and handled our first dog teams. Here we've hiked deep into the only remaining stretch of coastal wilderness on the Atlantic side of North America.

An experience need not be a "first" to be an adventure, and Maritime Canada continues to surprise and delight us with its variety after all these years. Until we were writing this book, for example, we had never seen the tremendous sand dunes along the new section of Prince Edward Island National Park, near St. Peters, take on the contours of the Sahara. The wildlife we see is a continuing source of surprise and wonder: swirling clouds of sandpipers at Mary's Point, deer in the backyard of the Hiram Walker Estate in St. Andrews, moose beside the road in Keswick, harbor porpoise in Charlottetown, salmon jumping in the Miramichi, seal pups in Murray River, Osprey nesting at Point Escumiac, puffins off Grand Manan, bald eagles on the Tobique, the continent's largest great blue heron colony at Souris, cormorants on the seastack at Pokeshaw and an island solid with birds in Malpeque Bay. And, of course, the Fundy whales. Other places in the world boast to us of their whale populations, but we try to be good guests and not remind them that we have the best right in our backyard. We don't even have to go out in a boat to see them: our favorite spotting point is from a lighthouse on Campobello Island.

Barbara and Tim Rogers

A Word of Thanks

Even when it has only two authors, a travel book is a group project. No two humans could possibly gather all the information, sample the activities, hike the trails, taste the food and paddle the waters required of a reliable guide book without a lot of help from other people. We've been singularly blessed in writing this one. Help has come wherever we travel and more help has awaited us at home.

Two people stand out for their continuing role in our work: Valerie Kidney in New Brunswick and Carol Horne in Prince Edward Island. Their knowledge, diplomacy, perseverance and good humor makes them each a pleasure to know and work with. Others stand out as well, joining Valerie and Carol in smoothing the road before us and putting us in touch with just the right people to answer our questions (or answering them themselves) – Percy Mallet, Lee Heenan, Nancy Sears, Candee Treadway, Ralph Johansen, Dick Griffiths, Monica Campbell-Hoppe, and Lois Gerber.

Throughout the two provinces, we have never failed to be amazed at the wealth of knowledge and information that waits for travelers in each of the local and provincial tourist information offices along the way. What the people who staff these don't know themselves, they'll find out within a couple of telephone calls. Their enthusiasm for their homeland and the eagerness with which they share it is one of the great pleasures of travel, not to mention making our work a lot easier as we try to ferret our obscure bits of information. We can't list them all – we often don't even know their names – but remember especially Lisa Cormier and Philip Barnhill, the good-humored duo in the information office in Bathurst.

Other people seem to appear randomly, in gestures typical of Maritime hospitality – we remember especially a conversation on the dock at Shippagan with Muriel Savoie, as we watched a veritable fleet of little puk-a-puks set off for the Blessing of the Fleet one morning.

There are the travel companions, too, with whom we have shared the laughs and wonders of travels there. Paddling companions Darrell Mesheau and Glen Larsen come to mind, and the ever-laughing Melanie Coates.

Innkeepers in general are a rich source of local information for travel writers, and we exploit them mercilessly. While all we have met in these two provinces have gone out of their way to be helpful (and are supremely hospitable by nature), some have gone so far beyond the demands of hospitality that we think of them whenever someone uses the word. Elizabeth Cooney in St. Andrews, Katherine Van Weston in St. Martins and Ida and Larry Adair, who are never too busy to drop what they are doing to show us some new wonder in the vast Fundy wilderness they call home.

Fellow travel writers are just as generous of their time and knowledge, especially Tom Bross, who shares discoveries made as he travels in New

Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and Lura Rogers, who took time from writing her own book to help us prepare this manuscript when time grew short.

While we'd sometimes prefer to be writing with our favorite fountain pens, reality requires many hours at a computer, and ours seem to wait until a manuscript is almost due, then either develop highly eccentric habits or stop working altogether. To Tracy Pillsbury, computer guru extraordinaire, who hops into his truck and makes house calls from two hours away, goes our eternal gratitude for setting them right at a moment's notice.

We've left the ever-patient Lissa Dailey for last, although she's the one who actually made this book real. As our editor and our friend, she's a treasure, and to her goes the heartiest thanks of all. It is, after all, the friendships that will endure, long after the travels are over.

Dedication

To Wayne Kidney, without whom New Brunswick just won't be the same.

About the Authors

Tim and Barbara Rogers have been wandering around Canada since the very first days of their marriage, hiking its trails, camping in its parks, climbing its mountains, kayaking its waters and skiing its snow. Until recently, they saved the Atlantic Provinces for themselves, going there for family vacations while they wrote about other places in the world. Their books have covered such widespread locations as the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, African safari parks, Portugal, New England and the rivers and seas of Europe. Their articles in magazines and newspapers have described their adventures on several continents, from climbing a volcano on the back of a camel to "driving" their own houseboat through the canals of England. Exotic, they insist, is simply a matter of perspective, and they find a lion in the bush no more exciting than looking a Fundy whale straight in the eye.

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Introduction

IN THIS CHAPTER

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- Getting Around
- Exchange Rate & Taxes
- About the Adventures
- Fauna & Flora
- Accommodations & Dining Price Key
- Information Sources

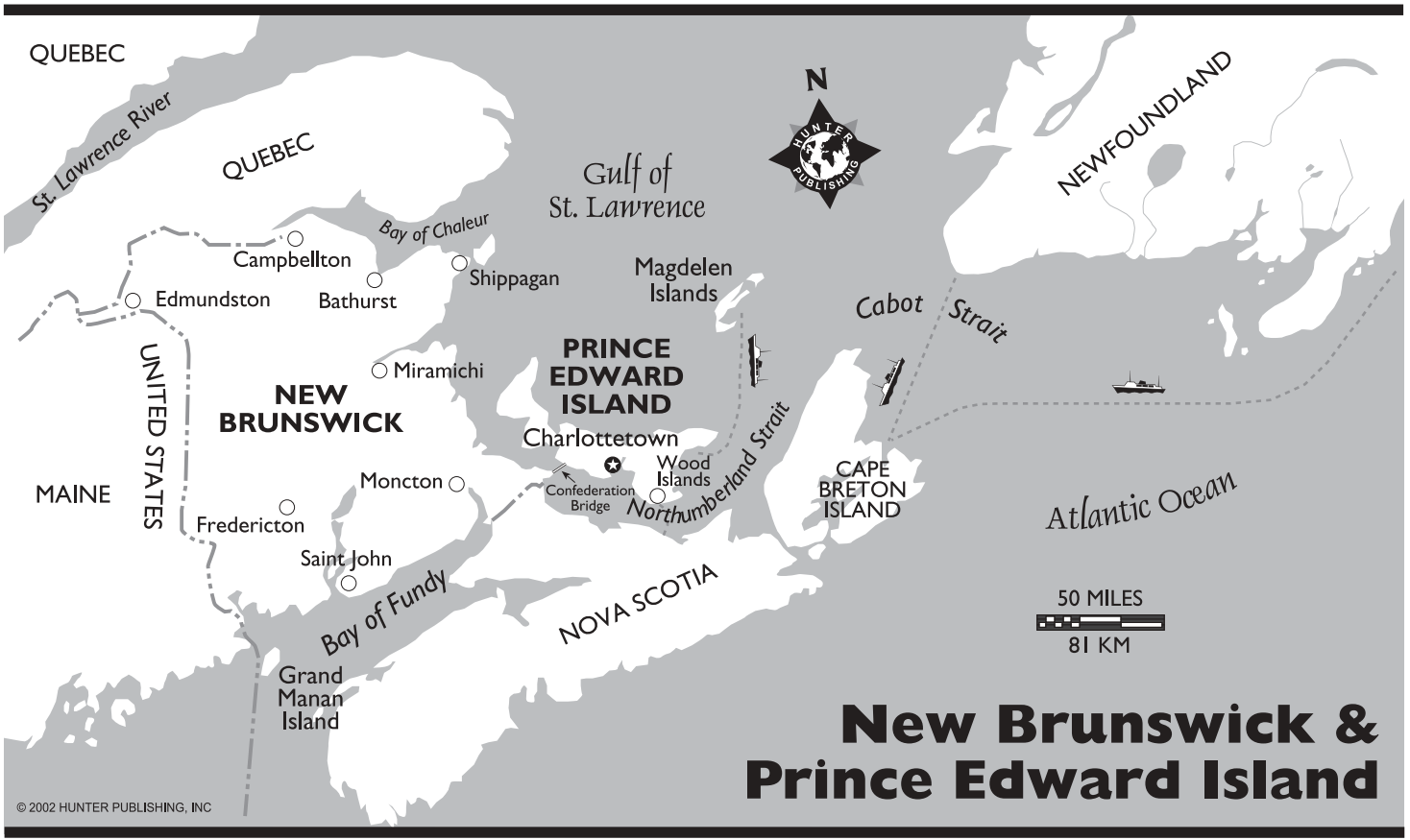
The provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island lie at the heart of Atlantic Canada, both geographically and culturally. Since 1997, they have been connected by the Confederation Bridge, which joins them physically as well, making it easy to link the two in a varied, adventure-filled vacation.

These two provinces, although quite different in size and topography, typify the wonderful variety of cultures, environments and experiences in Atlantic Canada. From the mountains of New Brunswick – an extension of the Appalachians – to Prince Edward Island's beaches, opportunities for active pursuits are plentiful enough to fill a vacation at any time of year. Miles of shoreline, some of it completely undeveloped, provide paddling waters and a wide variety of different beach environments to explore. Small islands lie scattered about the Bay of Fundy, whose tides are the highest in the world. With the inward and outward rush of 100 billion tons of seawater twice each day comes some of the richest concentrations of marine life anywhere in the east. Whales are so common that many tour boat operators guarantee sightings.

One of Canada's premier bicycle trails traverses PEI (as the province is called by nearly everyone here), following the gentle contours of the island's rolling landscapes. Unlike many rail-to-trail lines, this one winds beguilingly among the low hills instead of cutting a straight, monotonous line. More mountainous New Brunswick offers ski slopes, and the deep snows of its northern counties are prime for other winter sports, such as dogsledding and snowmobiling.

In summer, the rivers and streams of New Brunswick are among the best known fishing streams in the world, filled with trout and salmon. Hiking trails climb its mountains, penetrate its dense forests and skirt its long and varied shoreline. Both provinces offer a tremendous variety of waterborn trips and excursions, employing every type of craft, from graceful sailing ships to Zodiacs and tiny puk-a-puks, a name derived from the distinctive puk-puk-puk sound of their two-cycle motors.

With all this outdoor activity and wild open space, it's easy to overlook the vibrant, manageable-sized cities and their cultural attractions. But you shouldn't. Theater, dance, music of all kinds and art are highly valued here, and you'll find a symphony orchestra in Saint John, resident theater


QUEBEC
St. Lawrence River
QUEBEC
Gulf of St. Lawrence
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
NEWFOUNDLAND
Bay of Chaleur
Campbellton
Shippagan
Magdelen Islands
Edmundston
Bathurst
Cabot Strait
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
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Charlottetown
Wood Islands
Confederation Bridge
Northumberland Strait
CAPE BRETON ISLAND
MAINE
Moncton
Fredericton
Atlantic Ocean
Saint John
Bay of Fundy
NOVA SCOTIA
50 MILES
81 KM
Grand Manan Island
New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island
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companies in Charlottetown and Fredericton, and an abundance of small community theater and music groups representing the varied cultures of the two provinces.

Geography & Terrain

Border disputes have never been an issue among the four Atlantic provinces, where water separates them all (except for a tiny umbilical cord that holds Nova Scotia to New Brunswick). Although firmly attached to the continent on the west, where it borders both Maine and Québec, New Brunswick has more coastal than land boundaries, and Prince Edward Island is completely water-bound. Most of this coastline is bordered in beaches – miles of golden, red, gray, and white sands. The waters of the Northumberland Strait are warm – New Brunswick has the warmest saltwater swimming north of Virginia – as are those off the beaches of Prince Edward Island.

New Brunswick attaches to Maine, lying east of that state's northern section, and shares its only other land border with the Canadian province of Québec. The narrow **Northumberland Strait** separates it from Prince Edward Island. South of the island and attached to New Brunswick by a narrow strip of land is **Nova Scotia**. The most noticeable geographic feature in the region is the mighty **Bay of Fundy**, which laps the southern coast of New Brunswick.

To say that the bay "laps the shore" is perhaps a poor description of how this body of water, whose tides are the highest in the world, treats the land alongside it. Twice each day the Bay of Fundy waters rise and fall as much as 45 feet, and their force has created dramatic eroded cliffs, sea stacks, sea caves, miles of bird-rich tidal flats and other geological and natural attractions.

Through New Brunswick run the **Appalachian Mountains**, but apart from these and the Caledonia Highlands near Fundy National Park, the terrain is gently rolling and fairly low, especially on Prince Edward Island. Here, the relatively flat landscape is covered in a patchwork of green fields that turn to gold in the fall.

History

Before the Europeans arrived, the **Micmac** people fished along the shores and hunted the inland forests of what is now New Brunswick. In 1605, **Samuel de Champlain** established the first European colony at Port Royal, now **Annapolis Royal**, in Nova Scotia. Calling it **Acadia**, the French spread settlements along the west shore of Nova Scotia. As Scots were settling in eastern Nova Scotia and claiming it for England, the French established a settlement on Cape

Breton Island, at **Louisbourg**. The French had already claimed Prince Edward Island in 1523 but didn't settle it until 1663, calling it Ile St-Jean.

Early contacts between the Europeans and the Native Peoples were generally friendly. Europeans introduced more efficient tools, and natives taught the Europeans how to survive in their new environment, and traded them highly prized furs. But new settlers brought competition for land, as well as European diseases; the Native Peoples had no immunities to these, and complete villages were wiped out.

THE MICMACS

In Canada, Native Americans are officially called First Nations Peoples, but even they call themselves Indians. The spelling of the name of New Brunswick's Native Peoples has also changed over the years. Though traditionally spelled **Micmac**, a new spelling – **Mi'qmaq** – has been promoted in recent years as providing a closer approximation of the native pronunciation of the word. Local band members use either, and you'll see both spellings used in signs and literature. In this book we generally use the more common spelling of Micmac, unless the word is part of a proper name or title where it is spelled differently.

In the early 1600s, France was well ahead of Britain in the struggle to control the new territory. Adventurous French fur traders, explorers and missionaries had advanced into much of the eastern half of the continent, and their colonial empire – New France – included most of what is now New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. By the early 1700s, the British controlled a number of areas, including Acadia, which France ceded to them in 1713 (although the French farmers remained on their land) and France kept Cape Breton Island.

Britain and France were, by 1750, rivals for colonial empires around the world: in India, the West Indies and North America. British colonies in Canada had grown faster than the French ones and had 30 times as many people. They provided stiff competition for New France's fur trade, and they brought armies and fleets from Europe. As skirmishes increased, the French made alliances with the Native peoples.

As the likelihood of war grew stronger, the British expelled the Acadian farmers who had remained in Nova Scotia after the French ceded it to Britain, fearing that they would side with the French and form the nucleus of an underground resistance. Many of these French settlers moved west into what is now New Brunswick; others fled to Louisiana.

In 1758 the English won a major battle against the French fort of Louisburg on Cape Breton Island. Gradually the French fell back and in 1759 they found themselves assailed on their major fronts. The decisive

battle, which sealed the fate of New France forever, took place in Québec in 1759, where they were defeated.

The capture of Québec left Britain ruler of all of northern North America. To help recover the costs of the long war, the British government raised taxes on goods imported into the American colonies. The colonists rebelled, expecting the newly conquered French in the north to join them in revolution. But only a handful did; most fought shoulder-to-shoulder with their British former enemies. Staunch Royalists and devout Catholics, they had little use for the "godless" Republicans from the south. After the War of 1812, Britain and the young United States agreed on a border between the United States and the northernmost group of colonies, by then known as Canada.

One of the side effects of the American Revolution was an influx of English-speaking immigrants into Canada from the American colonies: about 50,000 Loyalists settled, mostly in Nova Scotia and along the almost empty shores of what is now New Brunswick. These immigrants joined the Acadian refugees from Nova Scotia to create a separate colony, refusing an invitation to join their French neighbors as part of Québec, forming New Brunswick.

Borders made trade difficult among the Canadian colonies and, in 1864, representatives of each met in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PEI), to discuss confederation. In 1867, the British Parliament created a federal union of Canada. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick hesitated over whether to remain separate, join the United States, or merge with Canada, but finally voted to merge.

Getting Around

Eastern Canada is an easy place to reach. Travelers from the northeastern United States can drive through Maine and into New Brunswick, or they can take the mile-saving ferries from either Portland or Bar Harbor (both in Maine) to **Yarmouth**, Nova Scotia. Many people like to take the ferry one way and drive along the Quoddy and Fundy shores on the other, forming a circle of diverse land and seascapes. Flying is a faster way to get here, with most flights routed through the hub at **Halifax**, from which you can fly to all the other major cities and areas.

■ Rental Cars

Once in the **Maritime Provinces** (a designation which, you might be interested to know, includes the lower three, but not Newfoundland, which is part of the broader Atlantic Provinces group), you can move on to Charlottetown, Moncton, Saint John or Fredericton by air. Car rental is avail-

able at all airports, although you should reserve a car well in advance during busy July and August.

CAR RENTAL TIP: When renting cars in Canada, don't forget to check the Canadian companies of **Tilden** (☎ 800/CAR-RENT in US or 800/387-4747 in Canada) and **Rent A Wreck** (☎ 800/327-9093 US or 800/327-0116 in Canada), whose rates and policies are traveler-friendly. They have locations in both provinces.

■ Driving in the Maritime Provinces

You can drive from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island, thanks to the whopping new **Confederation Bridge** that was completed in 1997. To make a tidy circular route from New Brunwick to PEI and back, you can use the bridge one way and the **ferry** from Wood Islands to Caribou, Nova Scotia, on the other.

GOING METRIC?

To make your travels easier, we have provided the following chart showing metric equivalents for measurements you are familiar with.

1 km	=	.6124 miles
1 mile	=	1.6093 km
1 foot	=	.304 meters
1 inch	=	2.54 centimeters
1 square mile	=	2.59 square km
1 pound	=	.4536 kilograms
1 ounce	=	28.35 grams
1 imperial gallon	=	4.546 liters
1 US gallon	=	3.7854 liters
1 quart	=	.94635 liters

Rules of the road are pretty much the same in Atlantic Canada as they are in the United States, with international road symbols used in most places. Distances on road signs and maps are shown in kilometers, and if you rent a car there, its odometer and speedometer will be also be in kilometers. (It's a bit startling to look down and realize you're tooling along at a cool 100.) When people tell you how far something is, they may use miles, even though metric is the official measure.

The fastest conversion, if to-the-inch accuracy is not crucial, is two kilometers to a mile, plus a little. To translate longer distances, drop the last digit and multiply the rest by six. For example, change 100km to 10; 10x6=60 miles. We've used miles (because that's what our odometer measures in) and have given metric conversions only when the exact distance is crucial to your finding the right unmarked turn-off.

Exchange Rate & Taxes

We have the proverbial good news and bad news about money. The good news is very good indeed, for people from the United States traveling in Canada. The American dollar is usually worth about one-third more, so when you see a price tag of $10, you are really paying about $6.50-$7, depending on how and where you exchange your money. Recently, the rate has often been even more favorable to Americans.

Before you start planning how to spend all that extra money, hear the bad news. Federal and Provincial **sales taxes** in Canada, although they vary by province, are horrendous. A **Value-Added Tax** (the most regressive form of taxation ever dreamed up by a greedy government) eats up much of the exchange advantage, levying additional fees on everything, even postage stamps and parking tickets. Although there are ways to get some of it back – usually only on major purchases of actual goods, not services – these are awkward and return only a portion. To make matters worse, unless you leave Canada at a point with an instant rebate facility, the refund will arrive by Canadian check, which most banks charge you as much as $20 to process. (A friend of ours actually lost money trying to recover her taxes, since the refunds came in two checks – one from the Federal government and one from the province.)

Adventures

In the last decade or so the definition of adventure travel has moved from life-threatening to life-enriching. In this book, you'll find adventures of all sorts, none of them life-threatening unless you undertake them unprepared, ill-equipped or in a reckless manner. While Atlantic Canada has cliffs nearly a half-mile high that you could fall off the face of, we give our readers credit for recognizing such places as dangerous and not leaning over the edge.

Some suggestions may be helpful, however, especially if you've never tried a particular activity before, and we include them. Many of you will skip over them and get right on to the adventures. If you are already an experienced paddler, for example, you won't need our suggestions on taking your first strokes.

We hope this book will tempt you to try an adventure or an activity or a sport you've never done before. It needn't be rappelling, dogsledding, rafting the tidal bore, or paddling about in the ocean like an Inuit. It might be watching chimney swifts return home in the evening in a great cyclone-shaped whirl. Or it might be seeing your first puffin up close and personal. It could be riding on a sailboat in Passamaquoddy Bay, or going for a sleigh ride along the Miramichi, or watching salmon jump a falls, or

learning to walk on snowshoes with a Micmac teacher. It might even be trying your hand – or eye – at spotting one of the local takes on Nessie, reputed to live here in at least two lakes.

Several types of adventures either require that you be able to read a **topographical map** or would be a lot easier or more interesting with one in hand. They are quite easy to read, and we suggest you study one – perhaps of an area you are already familiar with, such as your own neighborhood – before you need to use one in the woods.

READING A TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

Each line represents a specific elevation, and wherever that line runs, the elevation will be the same. When the lines are close together it means the land rises (and falls) steeply. When they are widely spaced the land is nearly level. The interval between those levels varies with each map, and is written in the map key. When you see a lot of roughly concentric lines that form a group of sloppy circles, this usually indicates a mountain (elsewhere, this could indicate a crater, but not in Atlantic Canada). At its summit will be a dot with its elevation (if it's high enough).

Now for the interesting part. When you see a lot of lines close together forming a series of V-shapes, you have a ravine. You will usually see a blue river or stream line running through the points of the Vs, and you can tell which way it flows because the Vs will point upstream. Occasionally you may see a series of Vs without a river, which indicates a sharp, rising ridge. It is important to know that these maps are oriented to **true north** (the North Pole), not to **magnetic north**. You will need to orient your map with your compass to make this adjustment.

NATIONAL PARK PASSES: If you plan to use several of the national parks during your visit, consider buying a season pass good for either one person ($30) or a family ($75). Passes for children ages six-16 are $15; for seniors, $22.50. Since many of the best adventure activities are centered around these parks, this could be a good investment, equal to about three four-day passes or 10 single-day entrance fees. With one park on Prince Edward Island and two parks in New Brunswick, you have a lot of places and activities to choose from. If you plan to do any fishing, you can also buy a fishing license at any national park that is good at the other national parks as well.

■ On Foot

Perhaps the most rewarding way to travel in New Brunswick and PEI is on foot, especially for those who love to watch for birds or woodland flowers. Trails lead through all sorts of environments, from highland bogs and moors to wave-swept seashores and beside wilderness lakes. Some are wide multi-purpose paths shared with cyclists, others rough and hard to find even with the help of trail blazes. The tips below will make your hikes and walks safer, both for you and for the environment.

■ Carry appropriate clothing and equipment for the time of year. Weather in the Atlantic Provinces is unpredictable and can change drastically within a few hours. Always be prepared for rain. Wear boots on rough trails or for long hikes and climbs.

■ Plan a route and stick to it. Always tell someone your planned route and the approximate time you expect to return. If you do not have traveling companions other than those who will be on the trail with you, check in at the park headquarters, campground office or local RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) station, or tell your hosts at a hotel or inn.

■ Know your own physical capabilities and those of others you hike with. Don't plan a trip that is beyond your limits. Investigate the difficulty of the trails and the steepness of the ascent before you take a trail.

■ Carry plenty of water and enough food for the time you expect to be on the trail, plus a little extra in case of an unexpected delay. Don't drink water from streams, even in remote places.

■ Carry basic first aid equipment, especially on overnight trips.

■ Listen to a weather report for the time you expect to be on the trail. Check trail conditions locally, especially in times of sever drought or if there has been heavy rain recently.

■ Read and obey trail warnings before you begin. During wet weather, trails which require fording rivers are sometimes closed due to deep water or heavy currents. Don't attempt to use these trails. During dry spells, woods may be closed to hikers as a forest fire prevention measure.

■ Be aware of your impact on the environment. Stay on trails, especially in steep areas where erosion is likely, to avoid damaging trailside plants. Carry litter out with you.

■ Insects, especially mosquitoes, are a fact of life in the northern woods, especially in the early summer, in wet or low places, and after rainy weather. Wear light-colored clothing and use a repellent designed for deep woods.

■ On Wheels

The biggest cycling news all across Canada is that work continues on the **TransCanada Trail**, with significant segments now open in the Atlantic Provinces. Much of the trail uses the abandoned CN rail lines and, while making it into an all-purpose trail may sound easy, it actually involves a lot of work and planning, not to mention money. Bridges are a primary problem, since the railroad bridges must be replaced with appropriate smaller crossings. The trailbed is level and usually fairly easy to reclaim, but needs resurfacing with foot- and wheel-friendly materials. Where the trail passes through long wilderness stretches, shelters are being constructed. Since the work is being done by local volunteer committees, these wilderness areas present the greatest obstacle.

When completed, it will be the longest trail in the world, stretching from sea to sea; it will be used by hikers, cyclists, skiers, horseback riders, and – in some areas – by snowmobilers. In some places, its location makes it useful as a canoe portage and access route. Its level, smooth surface will make it accessible to those in wheelchairs and others unable to travel on rough woodland trails.

It has, we think, the greatest appeal to cyclists, providing a traffic-free route with a dependable surface. If anything, it is usually *too* straight, and therefore less interesting than winding country roads, but it passes directly through towns, so cyclists have good access to services, including accommodations, close to the trail. Local outfitters have quickly seen the potential for adventure travelers; in Edmundston, New Brunswick, you can bicycle north along the trail and return by canoe, with an outfitter meeting you at the far end to swap vehicles. In PEI you can cycle long distances while a cycle shop transfers your luggage between B&Bs along your route. A particularly scenic section has been completed across New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula.

BRINGING YOUR BIKE BY AIR

Check with your airline if you plan to bring your own bicycle by air. Some require that it be boxed or bagged; some even provide a specially designed carton. The following suggestions may help you disassemble and pack your bike:

- Remove both wheels and deflate the tires.
- Remove front and rear mudguards and stays.
- Lower saddle as far as possible.
- Remove pedals.

■ Remove the rear derailleur without disconnecting the cable and, with an elastic band, attach it within the rear end of the frame. As you do this, tie up the loose chain.

■ Turn the handlebar and forks so they are aligned with the top tubes.

■ Attach the mudguards to the wheels with elastic bands.

■ Use bungee cords to attach each wheel to the side of the frame.

■ Check the whole assembly for any protruding fragile parts and protect them in some way.

RECOMMENDED READING: Those who enjoy biking on mountain trails will want a copy of ***Mountain Bike! Atlantic Canada***, by Sarah Hale and Jodi Bishop, published by Menasha Ridge Press.

■ On Water

When you think of the collective name for these provinces – Atlantic Canada – you get a hint about the ratio of land to water: sea surrounds, for all practical purposes, three of the four provinces, and forms more than half the boundaries of the fourth. Rivers form a network across the land, and lakes and ponds dot it. There is a lot of water to play on here.

Canoeing

The same safety precautions that apply to canoeing anywhere apply in Atlantic Canada, and in some places here they become more crucial. In the interior wilderness areas you may be miles from help in case something goes awry. The following makes a good checklist for any back-country canoe trip:

■ Watch the weather. Check the forecast ahead of time and remember that meteorology in coastal regions and islands – even very large ones – is an unreliable science. The weather can, and will, change almost instantly. It's as simple as a change in wind direction. No matter what the forecast, be prepared for bad weather and high winds, which can turn a friendly lake into a raging sea.

■ Plan ahead, and carefully, considering all the details. How will you get to your put-in? Where will you take out and how will you transport your canoe or car between the two?

■ Learn about the river or watershed system from a local who knows and who has canoed it recently. Better yet, take one along. A

knowledgeable guide is not only good company, but can make your trip safer and more enjoyable.

■ Carry warm clothing, hiking boots, extra food and water, matches, first-aid supplies and bug repellent, all in a waterproof float bag.

■ Carry a healthy respect for the river, and scout ahead if you are in doubt of what's around the next bend. Know what the water levels are, and what hidden hazards may lurk at different levels. Know what water level makes the river navigable by canoe; some are passable only at high water, others are deadly then. Again, only someone with local knowledge can tell you.

■ Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD). Having one isn't enough: it needs to be on you, and properly secured. Your canoe should be wearing its safety gear, too, with painters (lines) on both bow and stern. Carry a spare paddle.

■ Be realistic about your own abilities, expertise and strength, and don't plan a trip that exceeds them.

■ Carry (and know how to read) topographical maps of every place you will go.

■ Leave a plan of your trip with someone who can get help if you fail to return when expected.

CLEARLY CANADIAN: Canoes have been a part of Canada's heritage since long before there was a Canada. Their shape and form was developed by the First Peoples (as Canadians call their Native Americans) who built them of birchbark. In the virgin forests, birch trees sometimes grew so large that one tree's bark would sheath an entire canoe. They are not only part of the heritage, but also part of the unique Canadian mystique, right up there with the Mounties. As the writer Pierre Berton quipped: "A Canadian is someone who knows how to make love in a canoe."

Kayaking

The variety of eastern Canada's coastlines is exceeded only by the variety of its weather. Both make sea kayaking interesting. So do whales and sea caves, and tides that think nothing of rising as much as 50 feet in a few hours.

Some of the challenges of kayaking in the sea are directly related to those features that make it the most interesting. Exploring sea caves, for example, can be very tempting, but remember that even at low tide a sudden swell can bang your head against the cave's roof. It is better to stay out of caves altogether, or at least wear a helmet. Enter one only on a falling tide and be extremely careful.

Likewise, kayaking around whales can be exciting, but dangerous. Stay away from whales that are engaged in any activity that makes them surface suddenly, such as breaching or lunge feeding and, if you find yourself too close to active whales, rap your paddle against the kayak sharply, making as much noise as you can, and leave the area quickly.

What happens if you're a learning paddler and on the sea when a strong wind blows up? Your guide and instructor should have a tow line, and will simply attach it to your kayak and tow you inshore out of the wind, while you rest. If you are planning to paddle in exposed waters, ask your instructor about this. You'll feel better knowing there's a tow line available, even if you don't need it. And think twice before learning on open waters with someone who scoffs at the idea that you might need a tow. From Grand Manan, Ireland is the next stop.

IN A KAYAK BUILT FOR TWO

If you have never paddled a kayak and go to an outfitter for your first excursion, you may be given the choice of a single or a double kayak. The strong paddler – someone with good upper body strength and coordination – will probably prefer a single kayak, and rightly. But so should the weak paddler, if the purpose is to learn kayaking. You'll be better off in your own kayak, where you can get the feel of it, learn to use the rudder, and not constantly have to follow someone else's stroke rhythm. (This was stated by the weakest paddler on our team, who would never get into a double kayak unless she had one arm in a sling.)

Fishing

Atlantic Canada is a paradise for sportfishing, perhaps the world's greatest fishing hole. Thousands of lakes, rivers, and streams teem with all the major freshwater species, while the coast is home to striped bass, sharks, tuna and a plethora of deep-sea fish. As a general rule, the farther north you go, the better the fishing.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Each province has at least one special publication on fishing, giving the various laws, regulations and licensing information. You can get these by calling the toll-free numbers for the provincial tourist departments, found at the end of this chapter. You will note that in some places, for some rivers and some fish species, you will be required to fish with a guide unless you are a resident of the province. The tourism offices can send you a list of licensed guides, with addresses.

■ On Snow

If you are planning a trip to eastern Canada in the winter and plan to engage in a lot of sports requiring snow, be advised that snow conditions become less reliable as you near the coast. The only coastal area where you can be almost sure of snow all winter (except in the rare mild or unusually dry winter), is along the **Bay of Chaleur**, which freezes over. The **Bathurst** area of New Brunswick has the highest snowfall in the province. Conversely, Prince Edward Island is the least likely to have dependable snow, although it very often has excellent cross-country skiing all winter. Coastal weather has a mind of its own.

SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS & SAFETY

New Brunswick offers the following regulations and safety precautions, which are much the same in PEI:

- Don't operate a snowmobile within 25 feet of a highway, except for crossing, loading and unloading.
- Come to a complete stop and look carefully before crossing a public road.
- Keep lights on during the daytime, as well as at night. All machines must be equipped with working lights.
- Drive on the right-hand side of the trail.

■ Wear a securely fastened helmet at all times (this is the law, in addition to common sense).

■ Watch for trail signs and obey them as you would traffic signs on highways.

■ The same rules prohibiting driving a car while under the influence of alcohol or drugs apply to operating a snow machine.

■ Always travel with other snowmobilers, and be sure someone not on the trail knows your planned route.

■ Dress for the weather, with extra clothing to protect you in case of a change for the worse.

■ Stay on the trails for safety and to avoid trespassing on private property where permission has not been granted. Many trails cross private land with the generous permission of landowners; this access will not be renewed if the privilege is abused.

■ Carry everything out with you; avoid littering the trails.

■ When adding gas or oil, avoid spills; when these leak onto ice or snow, they spread easily and are eventually washed into waterways, where they damage fish and wildlife. Remember that one quart of oil can contaminate one million quarts of water.

You can bring your own snowmobile into Canada, just as you can bring in an automobile, and it will require the same documentation: your local registration and proof of liability insurance.

■ On Horseback

Throughout the provinces, you will find riding stables where you can arrange trail rides and even overnight adventures to a backcountry lodge, cabin or woodland campsite. But those who love horses will also find some different adventures, such as the chance to ride Icelandic ponies, descendants of those used by the Vikings.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

The arts, from Acadian fiddling and stepdancing to Shakespeare, are alive and thriving in communities of all sizes: a town as small as **Tyne Valley**, on PEI, has a busy summer theater; artistry in traditional crafts is maintained by a full-credit college in **Fredericton**. Restored opera houses in **Moncton** and **Saint John**, both in New Brunswick, provide venues for an active symphony orchestra. **Char-**

lottetown, on Prince Edward Island, has a year-round center for the performing arts, home each summer to the Charlottetown Festival. The tiny village of **Lamèque**, New Brunswick, hosts an International Festival of Baroque Music each summer, with well-known musicians from all over the world.

Several towns and cities have open-air dramatic/historical performances. Each region's artistic expression reflects the history and background of the people. New Brunswick is especially rich in Francophone culture, with an entire village created around a dramatization of the novels of Antonine Maillet, while the haunting skirl of pipes in St. Andrews or PEI is clearly Scottish. In both provinces you will find Micmac bands and communities.

Fauna & Flora

■ Wildlife

While your main interest may be in seeing the local wildlife, you will certainly want to keep these encounters friendly. **Moose** and **bears** are the biggest concern. Black bears will usually hear you coming and be long out of sight before you arrive, but they will be attracted to the smell of food. If you are camping, don't leave food in your tent, either in campgrounds or in the forest-surrounded parks. Keep it in the trunk of your car. Unleashed dogs invite trouble with bears and put them at their worst temper.

> **BEAR FACTS:** If you do encounter a black bear, avoid eye contact (threatening behavior in bear language) and back slowly away. We know this defies your instinct, which tells you to turn and run, but that is exactly what you should **not** do. Bears can outrun you easily, and are very likely to give chase. Talk calmly in a low voice as you retreat (right, that's easy for us to say, you're thinking) and don't play dead. Black bears eat dead mammals.

You're far more likely to see moose. If you see a moose when you are on foot and have no car or cabin to retreat to, don't try to get closer for a better picture. Move slowly and, if the moose moves toward you, move back slowly. Like bears, they can run quite fast (consider how long their legs are). Male moose are at their most belligerent during the fall rutting season (you know how males are at times like that) and females are mean mammas when they are with young calves, which are born in late May, so that includes the early summer. If you think you are between a moose and

her calf, move to the side, never toward either animal, no matter how good a picture that wobbly little moose would make. Don't let all this frighten you, but it pays to know what to do if the occasion should arise.

■ Insects

Far more annoying are a much smaller bit of Mother Nature's fauna: blackflies and mosquitoes, which can make being in the woods very unpleasant. Light-colored clothing attracts fewer insects than dark, and long sleeves and pants protect you better than any bug dope. Ask locals what they use, since each place has insects with different tastes. Our experience is that Natrapel, Muskoll or any of several local brands work much better than the scented cosmetic company repellents. In the spring or in deep woods and moist places, a beekeeper's helmet is the only hope of escape.

FOR THAT SEVEN-YEAR ITCH: To stop the itch from insect bites, carry a package of meat tenderizer (we're serious; it contains papain, which breaks down the venom they inject into you) and mix a little with a drop or two of water to dab on bites.

HELP PROTECT WILDERNESS AREAS

When you are camping in the wilderness, every spark is a potential disaster to you, the miles of forest around you, and all the creatures that call it home. This is not a place for cigarettes. Confine your campfires to existing fire rings and be sure the ground around them is completely cleared of grass, pine needles, leaves and anything else that could possibly burn. Make sure you have the required permits and that fires of any kind are actually allowed in the area. Keep the fire small, just large enough for essential cooking. Douse or bury your fire *completely* before going to sleep.

Sightseeing

Both provinces are filled with historic sites and restorations – after all, the history of European settlement in the New World began here. Forts and defensive positions remain from the early wars between Britain and France over who would own this part of North America. Nearly every town has its little historical museum, and we like to take time to poke about in these small community attics. Some are

beautifully restored period homes, such as a Loyalist's home in Saint John, New Brunswick, that gives glimpses of how families lived in Canada's colonial days.

Without trying to draw too fine a line between what is historical and what is cultural, we have arbitrarily put some of the historical villages into the *Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences* sections, rather than in *Sightseeing*, and you may wonder why. Those that reflect and interpret a way of life in ways that are more cultural than historic, such as the Acadian Village in Caraquet, are put with *Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences*, since you really do step into a different world there. Some examples are less clear, so if you are particularly interested in historical places, look in both sections. Other *Sightseeing* options are there because they are interesting, unusual, thought-provoking, or just plain fun. We think you'll find a good mix of places, whatever your interests.

Where To Stay & Eat

Here it is: the usual disclaimer that says "don't blame us." Places and prices will change, so will ownership. If you find that a place has changed notably, drop us a note. If you find a great place where the hosts know all the hiking trails and bike routes, share it with readers of the next edition. You can write to us in care of the publisher, whose address is on the back of the title page.

We have tried to include a good variety of dining and lodging styles, although we ourselves prefer small inns, and B&Bs in local family homes. For camping, you will notice that our preference is for quiet campgrounds with well-spaced campsites, preferably with tree cover, and without adjacent amusement parks.

■ Prices

To give you some idea of the prices to expect (and it is sometimes, in this changing world, only a rough idea) we have used a code of dollar signs.

For lodging, the price includes a room for two people for one night, often (or always if we've designated "B&B") with breakfast. When the price includes dinner (known as MAP, or Modified American Plan), we've said so. Two ranges ($-$$, for example), can mean either that some rooms are in one range and some in another, or that the prevailing price is close to the edge of a price range. Remember that, at least for a while, you must add taxes to some prices. Be sure to ask when you reserve.

TAKE NOTE: All prices given in this book are in **Canadian dollars**, except those clearly labeled "US$."

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

For dining, the price represents the average cost of dinner entrées on the regular and daily special menu. When one or two dishes (usually lobster dinners) are much more expensive than the rest of the menu, we have disregarded these. You already know that you will have to pay extra for lobster. When a restaurant serves a meal that includes appetizer and dessert for a single price, we have tried to explain this. If we missed this detail, you'll be happily surprised. Remember that we usually slide into a restaurant for dinner just as someone is walking toward the door with the "closed" sign in their hand, so you'll forgive us if our notes are a little hard to read by then. Fortunately, we are never too tired to enjoy a good meal, or to remember the important little details of how it was prepared.

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Local Foods

We, like Napoleon's army, march on our stomachs. Figuratively, of course, but we do like good food, and will drive (or walk) miles out of our way to find it. We particularly enjoy well-prepared fresh seafood.

While we like chefs who create innovative and unique dishes, we don't applaud the trend toward putting together any weird combination just to be different, and we are happy to see that chefs in these provinces haven't been tempted by this wave of silliness. So when we describe a menu as "innovative" we don't mean trendy. We mean that a thoughtful chef has experimented successfully.

We think that local chefs anywhere do their best job with local ingredients, and we look for restaurants that take advantage of farm-fresh produce and native berries as they ripen. In the summer, any New Brunswick menu worth reading will feature **raspberry pie**. The use of **blueberries** with

meats, which you may find here, is not nouvelle cuisine; it was a combination used by the Micmacs long before *nouvelle* became *au courant*.

Baked goods, whether wild berry pies or hot scones, tend to be good everywhere, and reflect the local ethnic traditions. In Scottish areas of PEI, look for **oatcakes**, which can be anything from a scone-like biscuit to a rich shortbread cookie.

New Brunswick is the world's primary source (sorry, Maine, but we have to face facts) of **fiddleheads**, the tightly curled new fronds of certain ferns. In the spring you will see these deep green vegetables piled high in farmers markets, and on the daily specials of nearly every restaurant. Fortunately they freeze well and appear throughout the year in soups, omelets, and other dishes. They are usually described as tasting like asparagus, and we suppose they do taste more like asparagus than like grapefruit, but the comparison doesn't hold far beyond their color.

Seafood is preserved in several ways, primarily by smoking and salting. Salmon may be dry-smoked or in the form of lox, and other seafoods are smoked, too, including mackerel, mussels, oysters and eel. A delicious chowder is made by blending smoked and fresh fish. In some places you may find **finnan haddie**, a delectable dish made from smoked haddock.

Acadian Specialties

We like good solid traditional foods, and have a particular weakness for the Acadian dishes we grew up with (which did not include *poutine* of any sort). The following Acadian dishes may be on menus in New Brunswick or PEI:

- ***Fricot*** is a hearty chicken stew with – when properly made – whole chicken pieces and chunks of vegetables in a rich broth. It's occasionally made with clams. It is a satisfying dish and usually one of the least expensive on the menu.

- French fries are ***frites*** and onion rings are ***rondelles d'oignon***.

- ***Poutine rapée*** is a boiled dumpling with meat in the middle. Homemade, they can be excellent, but those who did not grow up eating them *chez grandmère* often find them difficult to love.

- We draw the line at another dish, also called ***poutine***, which is French fries with cheese melted over them, topped with gravy.

- ***Tourtière*** is a meat pie, that can, at its best, transcend all other forms of meat between crusts. Because we grew up with the best, made at home and served for breakfast, we may be snipey in our judgement of inferior examples, but it's usually a tasty, if rich, combination of ground pork (sometimes with beef), potato, onion and spices (our *Mémère* uses allspice) baked in piecrust and served warm. You may find other versions of **meat pies**, however,

which are like a hearty beef stew baked between crusts, more like a pot pie.

■ ***Râpure*** is made by combining chopped pieces of pork and chicken with a mixture of cooked and raw potato, which is then baked and served with molasses.

■ ***Pâté Acadien*** is a regular two-crust pie made with ground pork and turkey or chicken. It, too, is served with molasses.

■ ***Ble' d'Inde Lessive*** is hominy corn, made in a process of boiling that removes the skin and changes the texture.

■ ***Toutons*** are disks of deep-fried bread dough, served hot, often with molasses. You can substitute rich, tasty New Brunswick maple syrup (we never claimed we weren't prejudiced).

■ ***Poutine à Trou*** is a dessert made of apple, raisins and cranberries wrapped and baked in a ball-shaped sweet pastry. This is not to be confused with *poutine* (see above).

■ **Sugar pie** is very sweet, something like a Southern pecan pie, but without the nuts.

Information Sources

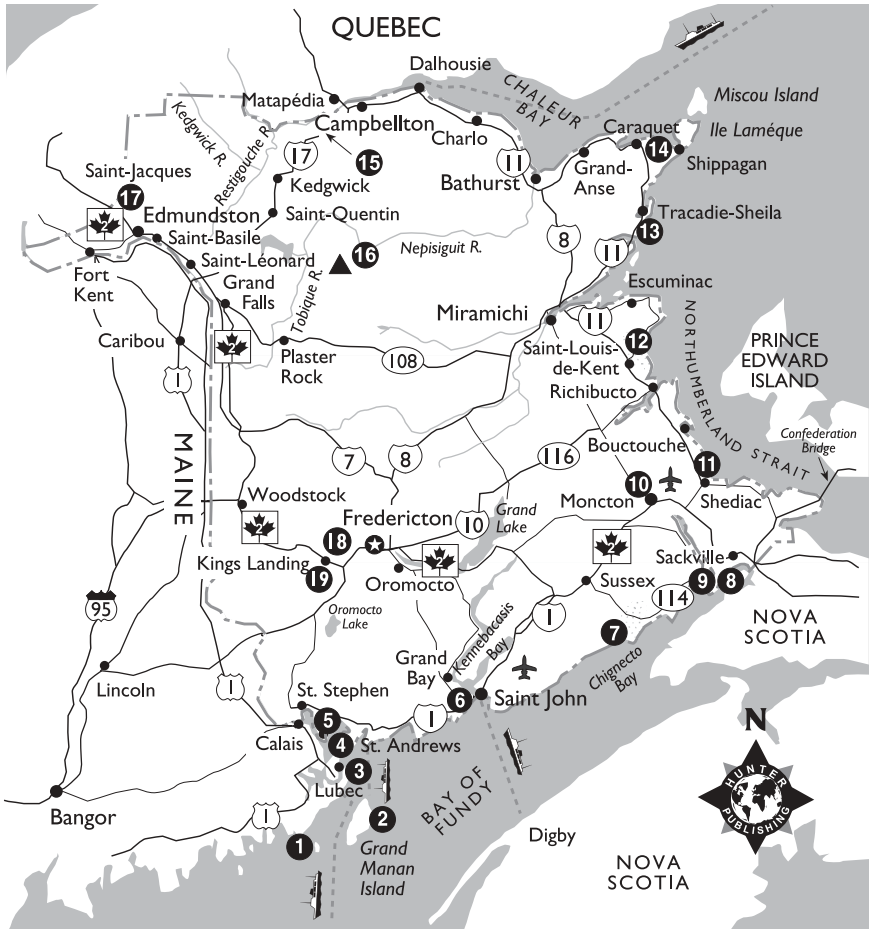
NEW BRUNSWICK

■ **Tourism New Brunswick**, PO Box 12345, Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6, ☎ 800/561-0123. Find New Brunswick on the Web at www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

■ **Tourism PEI**, PO Box 940, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7M5, ☎ 888/PEI-PLAY (888/734-7529) or 902/368-4444, Web site www.peiplay.com, e-mail tourpei@gov.pe.ca.

New Brunswick



1. Machias Seal Island
2. Anchorage Provincial Park
3. Campobello Island; Roosevelt Campobello Int'l Park; Herring Cove Provincial Park
4. Deer Island
5. St. Andrews Nat'l Historic Site
6. Reversing Falls
7. Fundy National Park
8. Hopewell Rocks
9. The Rocks Provincial Park
10. Magnetic Hill Complex
11. Parlee Beach Provincial Park
12. Kouchibouguac National Park
13. Val-Comeau Provincial Park
14. Acadian Historical Village
15. Sugarloaf Provincial Park
16. Mount Carleton Provincial Park
17. Les Jardins Park Complex; Les Jardins Provincial Park
18. Mactaquac Provincial Park
19. Kings Landing Historical Settlement

New Brunswick

Introduction

New Brunswick is the most geographically diverse of the Maritime Provinces, with its broad river valley, the Fundy Coast and its islands, the Appalachian mountains that reach their highest Canadian point at Mt. Carleton (2,500 feet), the long Acadian peninsula dividing the Bay of Chaleur from the Northumberland Strait and its long barrier islands. It is cut by rivers – two of world's most famous fishing rivers, the Miramichi and the Restigouche – and the broad, fertile St. John River valley, as well as the rolling farmlands of the Kennebecasis River valley, which ends with lake-like inland bays.

IN THIS CHAPTER

- The Quoddy Shore
- The Fundy Coast
- The Lower River Valley
- The Upper River Valley
- The Mountains
- The Acadian Coast
- The Miramichi
- The East Coast

The wide, winding valley carved by the St. John River has been a pathway of commerce since the First Peoples (as Canadians call their Native Americans) hunted and fished along its shores. Beside it stands the provincial capital, Fredericton, while two of its other three major cities are at either end: Saint John at the river's mouth where it flows into the Bay of Fundy, and Edmundston, close to its headwaters on the province's northwestern border with Québec. The river forms, or runs close to, the western boundary with Maine, and seacoasts form the other three borders: the Bay of Chaleur to the north, the Northumberland Strait to the east and the Bay of Fundy on the south.

The center of the province is laced with a few unpaved roads and is cut by the magical Miramichi River, beside which runs the only significant road through the middle of the province. Areas of New Brunswick best known to visitors include the **Miramichi Valley** (a favorite for those who love to fish), the charming old resort town of **St. Andrews** (a center for whale-watching and other boat trips), and the eastern beaches and shore of **Fundy National Park**. Lesser-known, but equally attractive and interesting, is the **Acadian Peninsula**, where many of the province's French-speaking people live; it is also a center for winter sports.

New Brunswick's position connecting northern Maine to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island has made it a well-used corridor, but too few stop to explore and savor its rural attractions – the riverboat inns, the quiet val-

leys with their covered bridges, the well-preserved historical homes and buildings, and the rugged islands of Passamaquoddy Bay.

Fewer still pause to enjoy the multitude of land and sea adventures it offers. It combines the best of all worlds for adventure-seeking travelers, with its abundant, but highly individual shorelines, and the inland pleasures of nearly pristine rivers and mountain forests. Because, unlike the other Atlantic provinces, it is a land-based province, not completely surrounded by sea, its winter weather supports heavy snowfall and accumulation necessary for skiing, snowmobiling and other snow sports. Even fishing continues into the winter with abundant smelt in the ice-covered Bay of Chaleur and other ice fishing opportunities on bays and lakes across the province.

New Brunswick's Parks

Fundy National Park, on the southern coast, is one of Canada's best-known parks because of its phenomenon of the world's highest tides, as well as the uniquely carved coastal scenery they create. Its terrain is rugged, rising to headlands and highland bogs, giving great variety – and scenery – to its extensive trail network.

Kouchibouguac National Park, on its eastern shore, is lapped by the far more gentle waters of the Northumberland Strait, which separates it from Prince Edward Island. Its low, stunningly beautiful landscape and seascape of barrier beaches and white dunes, with lagoons, bogs and coastal forests, are easily reached by level walking trails and by waterways perfect for canoeing. The waters that play against its beaches are the warmest north of Virginia.

Roosevelt Campobello International Park is on an island accessible from Canada only by water. A bridge connects it to its neighboring mainland, which is in the United States. Smaller than the other two parks, and without their large campgrounds and outdoor recreation facilities, its primary purpose is to preserve the land and buildings of the summer home of the family of President Franklin Roosevelt, both as a memorial to him and as an example of the summer lifestyle of the wealthy of his era.

Provincial parks are scattered throughout New Brunswick, although they are not nearly as numerous as they were a few years ago, and the number appears to still be shrinking. With governmental belt-tightening, the province (and some other provinces as well) has decided to spin off the smaller parks, especially those which are mostly campgrounds or beaches. They have retained the park status of those which encompass important historical or natural attractions, such as Mount Carleton, but are getting out of the business of running campgrounds and purely recreational facilities.

Quite confusingly (and for no purpose we can see), in provincial publications the words "Provincial Park" are no longer used. Wherever these would normally be, an italicized slogan in quotation marks has replaced them. At risk of offending whoever came up with this idea, we are omitting these fatuous slogans, even though they appear to now be part of the province's official name for these places.

So what the province now calls Parlee Beach – "New Brunswick's Favourite Swimming Beach" – or Mount Carleton – "The Appalachian Range Discovery Site" – will be shown here as Parlee Beach Provincial Park and Mount Carleton Provincial Park. That way readers will recognize them as a parks with all the fine facilities and programs that distinguish the park system. New Brunswick's parks and beaches are so well run and nicely maintained that you'd think the province would be proud to claim credit for them.

Many of the former beach and/or campground parks have been taken over by towns, others by private owners, concessionaires or community groups. As we write, most of these look much as they did when they were provincial parks. Most have retained their original names, some their old telephone numbers. This will be somewhat of a jumble for a while, but from what we've seen, after the confusing (and often quite sudden) transition, the parks remain well-run. How well private owners will be able to maintain the grounds and facilities is still a question, and we expect the answer will vary from park to park.

One thing you need not – ever – worry about in New Brunswick: whoever owns or manages the park, you will be welcomed and everyone concerned will work very hard to make sure you have a good time as their guest. Hospitality is every New Brunswicker's middle name.

Day Adventures

New Brunswick has an innovative program of Day Adventures, which make it very easy for visitors to identify and participate in active experiences ranging from dogsledding and kayaking to learning a traditional craft of a century ago or traveling by boat through a Micmac reserve. Each adventure is described in the Travel Planner published each year by the tourism department, with details such as cost, time involved, season and exactly what is included in the package. You can sign up for one of these by calling the individual outfitter or facility, by visiting one of the **Day Adventure Centres** located in St. Andrews, St. George, and Caraquet, or by making reservations in major provincial tourist offices throughout New Brunswick. Locally run tourist offices (as opposed to those operated by the province) can only make reservations for you if the outfitter has a toll-free or local number. It's just as easy to do it yourself, though, since you may want to ask questions.

The cost of these adventures may be as low as $5 for a two-hour personal tour of an open-air lumber camp museum in the wilds of the Restigouche, or more than $200 for a full day of snowmobiling with lessons, a guide, lunch, and the snowmobile and equipment all included. Multi-day adventures combine lodging, and often meals, with outdoor experiences. A day's skiing or snowmobiling might be paired with a night in a cozy log cabin or bicycling the scenic Madawaska River with a hotel room and meals in Edmundston.

These Day Adventures are especially designed to make it easy for travelers to try out a new sport in an inexpensive, safe, and non-threatening learning environment. If you have hesitated to try sea kayaking, rappelling or snowshoeing because you don't know the first thing about them, don't have the equipment and don't want to invest heavily in a sport you might not enjoy, this is your chance. If you find that you don't enjoy the activity, you'll still have a good time, see new scenery, meet new people and not spend a lot of money. It's a dabbler's dream. For a copy of the current catalog of adventures, call **Tourism New Brunswick,** ☎ 800/561-0123.

Another thing to remember about the Day Adventures program is that these businesses and outfitters usually offer a great many more options than the one or two they have listed as Day Adventures. A cycle shop, for example, may do multi-day trips in addition to the four-hour tour advertised, or a kayak center might have week-long coastal camping trips. Use the addresses and phone numbers as a starting point and ask about all the programs they offer. Complete mailing addresses, phone numbers, and often toll-free numbers, e-mail addresses and Web sites are included for each listing.

The Day Adventures program has a separate catalog of winter activities, which include cozy romantic weekends in country inns, skiing and a variety of winter packages, some of which combine lodging with an outdoor adventure. Be sure to ask for the ***Winter Getaway Ideas*** brochure if you plan a winter trip, available from Tourism New Brunswick ☎ 800/561-0123.

Snowmobiling in New Brunswick requires a trail permit if you use the province's network of 9,000 km of groomed trails – which you will certainly want to do (and would have trouble avoiding, even if you tried). You can get a permit from any of the 65 snowmobile clubs, and at some motels and gas stations along trails. If you bring your own machine, it must carry a valid registration from your own state or province, and you should also carry insurance from your own area to cover liability for any accidents. You will have to stop at the border and will be expected to produce the same sort of documentation for your snow machine as for your car. The most common local term for snowmobiles is "Ski-doo" (which is also a brand name for this type of vehicle); in French look for *moto-neige*.

TIP: For trail conditions, a trail map and other information, contact the **New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs** (NBFSC), Woodstock, NB E0J 2B0, ☎ 506/325-2625, fax 506/325-2627. You can also get a provincial trail map from Tourism New Brunswick, ☎ 800/561-0123.

Fishing

Rivers with sea-run salmon are *scheduled*, which means that non-residents cannot fish in them without a licensed guide. Unlike most places in the United States, sections of river are owned by adjacent landowners, and the fishing rights belong to them. On some rivers, this means that nearly all the good fishing waters are closed to travelers. On other rivers, it means that fishing camps, lodges and outfitters own large segments of river, which are reserved for their guests. To fish these prime pools, you can book a fishing package at one of the lodges. If you hire a good guide, he will have permission from the appropriate land-owners – usually people who own camps but use them infrequently. A guide will also know which waters are public.

Information Sources

■ Tourist Information

The central agency responsible for tourist information is **Tourism New Brunswick**, PO Box 12345, Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6, ☎ 800/561-0123. Local and regional information centers are listed under *Getting Around* in the beginning of each chapter. When you write or call for information, be sure to say what season you plan to travel in, since the Day Adventure guides are seasonal; be sure to mention any specific interests, such as fishing, beaches, birding, cycling or snowmobiling, so the information officer can send you the appropriate special publications.

■ Recommended Reading

Those traveling on foot, whether on long hikes, wilderness camping trips, or just seeking out waterfalls or birding sites, should refer to ***A Hiking Guide to New Brunswick***, by Marianne Eiselt and H.A. Eiselt, available in bookstores throughout the province.

Mountain bikers need ***Mountain Bike! Atlantic Canada*** by Jodi Bishop and Sarah Hale, published by Menasha Ridge Press, available in outdoor shops and bookstores.

A general book about the province, half guidebook, half lighthearted and lively history and culture, but 100% well-written, is ***Roads to Remember***, by the popular Fredericton writer Colleen Whitney Thompson. She's a fine storyteller (of course, since her father's from the Miramichi) and brings the many characters, heroes, rogues and even ghosts of New Brunswick history and folklore to life as she meanders around the province. Her advice is good, and you'll certainly enjoy reading her book.

MOOSE WARNING

While you may be eager to spot a moose during your trip, you don't want to see one just as it jumps in front of your car. Accidents involving moose are serious, because of the tremendous weight of the animal. A moose's body is at windshield height and can crush the car's roof or hit passengers at head level. Fatalities are fairly common in these accidents. Moose are undisputed kings of the wild, and with no predators they have no fear. A car is just another small animal to a moose, and the animal will either stand his ground or actually charge the car, with a rack of antlers that smashes right through windshields.

■ If collision with a moose seems inevitable, aim for the animal's hindquarters. This will slow the momentum somewhat and help prevent the animal's body from crushing the roof of your car – and you.

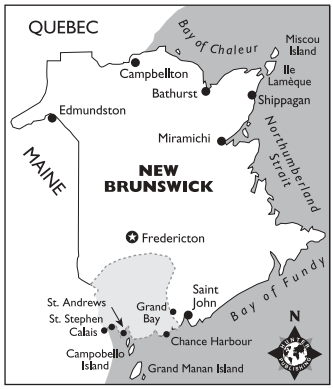
■ Watch for moose when traveling through wilderness areas, particularly around dawn and dusk and at night. If you must travel in remote areas at night, you and your passengers should constantly scan the roadsides ahead for dark shapes or any sign of movement in the underbrush.

■ If you see a moose in the road, pull off to the side and stop. At night, turn off your headlights so the moose will not be blinded by them, and wait for the moose to leave the road. Under no circumstances should you get out of your car when a moose is near.

■ If you see moose near the roadside in daylight and want to photograph them, try to do it from the car. If the moose are some distance away, get out of the car very slowly, and don't move too far from the car. Leave the engine running so you can get away quickly. Usually the moose will continue eating and ignore you, but if you have accidentally come between the parent and a young moose – which might be hidden in the brush on the opposite side of the road – the moose could charge with amazing speed. These seemingly cumbersome and ungainly creatures can run fast.

The Quoddy Shore

West of Saint John is a coastline of long peninsulas, deep coves, and rock-bound offshore islands. Connected in a circular route by ferries and a short drive through coastal Maine, the area abounds in water adventures, from kayaking under the cliffs of Grand Manan to watching the largest tidal whirlpool in North America. St. Andrews by the Sea is a summer holiday center for island exploration, seal watches, and birding, while inland lakes and rivers invite exploring by canoe.



The Day Adventures program is at its busiest here, with centers in both St. George and St. Andrews, where you can literally shop from kiosk to kiosk, signing up for land and sea excursions. The choice of boat trips from St. Andrews is staggering.

Geography & History

Passamaquoddy Bay is almost enclosed by the St. George peninsula, Deer Island and a string of islets. While small in comparison to the giant Bay of Fundy, it holds a lot of water, much of which rushes in and out with the twice-daily Fundy tides. The shore is steep in places, with long narrow channels and dozens of small islands, as well as sand bars which appear and disappear with the tides. It is, as you might guess, a wonderland of sea adventures.

Although this region looks small on a map, it has an inordinate amount of coastline formed by a lot of smaller bays and inlets, with jutting peninsulas and abundant islands. The three largest islands can be reached by ferry from the Canadian shore; one, Campobello Island, may also be reached by bridge from Lubec, in Maine.

This is Loyalist country, largely founded by those who disapproved of the American Revolution and escaped to crown-held territory. Some brought their houses (you'll hear of this in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, too), disassembled beam by board and loaded on boats bound for St. Andrews, where you can still see some of the original homes brought from Castine, Maine.

But even when feelings ran strongest between residents of Maine and New Brunswick, those closest to the border, in the facing towns of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, and Calais, Maine, had a working relationship that neither government would have approved of. Commerce flowed back and forth as usual, and so many families were intermarried that sorting

out loyalties was impossible. They were just a generation or so ahead of their times in international cooperation when the town of St. Stephen loaned the Americans gunpowder during the War of 1812 so they could have their July Fourth fireworks (which the Canadians enjoyed from their vantage point across the river). A favor or two among neighbors and cousins was none of the king's business, they reasoned.

Getting Around

From Saint John, take **Rte. 1** through St. George to **Rte. 127**, which makes a loop south into St. Andrews and heads north again to rejoin Rte. 1 on its way to St. Stephen. From Saint John to St. Andrews is 59 miles; it's 66 directly from Saint John to St. Stephen, 12 miles extra via St. Andrews. Either trip, to St. Andrews or St. Stephen, takes about an hour.

If you are arriving by air and don't plan to rent a car (which you can live without if you're staying in St. Andrews and taking day-trips), a **shuttle service** takes guests between the Algonquin Hotel and the Saint John airport. (Call the hotel at ☎ 506/529-3101.) If you are not planning to stay at the Algonquin, check with your innkeeper to see if they have a similar service available or call **HMS Transportation**, ☎ 506/529-3371, which also offers car rentals.

The Quoddy Loop

Using the Deer Island ferries, the Lubec Bridge, and a stretch of Maine roads, you can explore the area by car on a route known as the **Quoddy Loop**, making a circle in either direction or using the ferries to cut off many miles of driving if you are entering or leaving New Brunswick from coastal Maine.

To begin this loop from New Brunswick, go to **Letete**, seven miles from St. George via **Rte.772**, to the free ferry. A government-run ferry takes cars to **Deer Island** daily, every half-hour from 7 am to 6 pm, and hourly until 10 pm (July through August), and 7 am to 9 pm (September through June). From there, another ferry, operated by **East Coast Ferries**, ☎ 506/747-2159, runs to Campobello Island. It makes seven round-trip crossings daily in July and August, six daily in June and September, weather permitting. (If the ferry isn't running, a sign at the dock will say so. Be sure you're in the right lane at the Deer Island dock for the ferry to Campobello, because the ferry to Eastport, Maine, leaves from the same dock.) The trip is $11 for car and driver, plus $2 per passenger, to a $16 maximum. From Campobello, a bridge crosses to Lubec, Maine, and connects via Rte. 189 to US Rte. 1, which goes north to the border at St. Stephen or south along the coast of Maine. Campobello Island is 243 miles from Portland, Maine.

To and From Grand Manan

Ferries to Grand Manan leave from **Blacks Harbour**, operated year-round by **Coastal Transport Ltd.**, ☎ 506/662-3724. Six round-trips run daily in July and August, three daily September through June, at $25.50 for automobiles, $8.50 for each adult, and $4.25 for children ages five-12. Reservations are accepted only for the first ferry leaving Grand Manan each morning; all other departures are on a wait-in-line basis.

Because getting to and from Grand Manan takes time (especially if the line is long and you have to wait for the next crossing), you will want to explore it all while you are there. To make planning your time there easier, we've sorted all the Grand Manan adventures into a separate section (pages 39-45), which is cross-referenced to each type of activity. So when you find kayaking, you will be reminded to check kayaking on Grand Manan.

Information Sources

Write or call ahead for information from **Tourism New Brunswick**, PO Box 12345, Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6, ☎ 800/561-0123; **Quoddy Coastal Tourism Association**, PO Box 446, St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-4677; **St. Andrews Chamber of Commerce**, PO Box 89, St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3555 or 800/563-7397 and **Campobello Chamber of Commerce**, Welshpool, Campobello, NB E0G 3H0, ☎ 506/752-2233.

For information about Grand Manan Island, write or call **Grand Manan Tourism Association**, PO Box 193, North Head, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-3442. In winter, call ☎ 506/662-3524, then leave a message. Note that there is no visitors center on Grand Manan, so you must get information in St. Andrews or at the Blacks Harbour ferry landing before you cross, or from your hotel on the island.

Once in the area, you'll find ample information centers, the primary ones being: **St. Andrews Welcome Centre**, 46 Reed Ace., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3000, open daily 9 am to 8 pm in July and August, and 9 am to 6 pm in May, June and September; The **Provincial Information Centre** at the International Bridge, open daily 9 am to 7 pm, May through mid-October, ☎ 506/752-7043; and **The Provincial Information Centre**, Rte. 1, St. Stephen, NB E3L 2W9, ☎ 506/466-7390, open daily 8 am to 9 pm from May through August, and 9 am to 7 pm, September through mid-October.

For information on the coastal area east of St. Stephen, contact **Blacks Harbour Visitor Information Centre**, c/o Clarence Griffin, PO Box 90, Blacks Harbour, NB E0G 1H0, ☎ 506/456-4878. The information center is on the northern edge of town, and open daily, 9 am to 7 pm, in July and August.

Adventures

On the banks of the canal in St. George, a newly-built picnic area has a cluster of outdoor outfitters and an **Adventure Centre**, 13 Adventure Lane, ☎ 506/755-1023. Here you can sign up for Day Adventures in the local area or anywhere in the province. In St. Andrews, the tourist information office has a Day Adventure Centre, and there is another at the Algonquin Hotel.

■ On Foot

Hiking

Herring Cove Provincial Park on Campobello Island has several nice hiking trails, one of which leads to the Roosevelt Cottage. The trail is well-marked with blue metal squares, and is about 4½ miles long for the whole loop. It's an easy walk, with no climbing. From a trailhead near the beach, you can walk another loop trail to the Rock of Gibraltar, a bit of hyperbole, but an impressive glacial erratic nonetheless. The trail goes along the beach for some distance, then joins a nature trail that crosses a bog on a boardwalk before entering the woods. You can climb to the top of the rock with the help of a rope secured to a tree growing out of its top (just don't think about where the roots of the tree are anchored as you are climbing). Ask at the park headquarters for a map of these trails.

Roosevelt Campobello International Park has 8½ miles of trails to walk, including one that leads along the shore from the international bridge, around Upper and Lower Duck Ponds (really coves), around Liberty Point and Owen Point to Raccoon Beach. You can follow these easily with the help of a map from the Visitors Centre at Roosevelt Cottage.

Also on Campobello, at **Friar's Head**, you can climb the hill to an observation deck, from which you can see over the bay to Eastport, Maine. Interpretive signs describe the view and the Bay of Fundy. A trail drops off to the left of the deck, through the woods, and joins a dirt road. Follow it to the right, then turn off to your left on another trail. Keep taking the left choice at forks and you will circle back around to climb Friar's Head again, completing the loop. The whole trail is less than a mile, but be prepared to climb a bit.

Scenic Walks

St. Andrews offers a number of places to walk, either along shore trails or on the streets of the town, interesting for their two centuries of architecture. From **Katy's Cove**, where there is a swimming beach, the old railway bed makes a level walking path along the shore, through beds of ferns and wildflowers.

St. Andrews fairly begs to be explored on foot, either by wandering its streets randomly or with the map and information in *A Guide to Historic St. Andrews*, free at the Welcome Centre. That building and many others in town are the work of the prominent turn-of-the-century architect and long-time summer resident Edward S. Maxwell. The addresses of these and the two remaining homes brought from Castine, Maine by fleeing Loyalists are shown in the guide. If you have a particular interest in architecture, visit the **Greenock Church** (1824), on Montague St. to see the hand-carved pulpit of bird's-eye maple and mahogany and the maple pillars supporting the gallery.

GUIDED WALKING & HIKING TOURS

■ At the Day Adventure Centre in St. George, you can join a guided hike along the Fundy coastline or climb Red Rock Mountain, overlooking the town, with **Outdoor Adventure Company**, ☎ 506/755-6415 or 800/667-2010; www.havefun.net.

■ **Path Less Travelled** at the Deer Island Point Campground, ☎ 506/747-2423, organizes interpretive hiking and walking tours on the island, visiting scenic coves and points, and coastal rock formations, including a stone arch worn by the high tides.

■ On Wheels

Ferries to the three major islands all carry bicycles. Even the largest island, **Grand Manan**, is small enough for cyclists to explore easily. Here cyclists will find roads uncrowded and traffic slow, with courteous drivers who treat bicycles with respect. Campobello Island is also a pleasure to travel by bicycle; it is only three miles wide by 10 miles long.

BICYCLING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ You can rent bikes on Grand Manan from **Adventure High**, ☎ 506/662-3563 or 800/732-5492. It's not a bad idea to reserve them ahead during the summer. You can also bring bicycles on board the ferry.

■ To explore Deer Island on wheels, you can rent bicycles from **Path Less Travelled** at the Deer Island Point Campground, ☎ 506/747-2423. Or bring your bicycle on board the free ferry from Letete on the mainland. You can rent bicycles at the **Granite Town Hotel** in St. George and their shuttle will take you and the bike to the free ferry in Letete, bound for Deer Island.

■ Bicycle tours of the Fundy Islands are led by **Outdoor Adventure Company**, ☎ 506/755-6415 or 800/667-2010. Three-day

trips include meals and lodging in deluxe country inns, plus a support vehicle and all equipment, for $450 Canadian ($360 US). You'll see covered bridges, lighthouses, and beautiful shoreline scenery. Sign up for these directly with the company or at the Day Adventure Centre in St. George.

■ On Water

So many opportunities for water sports and excursions exist in the Quoddy region that we could easily fill this chapter with water activities alone. St. Andrews is a center for water-based adventures, but it doesn't have exclusive rights to Passamaquoddy Bay's wet resources. Just getting from island to island is a waterborne adventure, and from the ferries you may see porpoises, whales and the continent's largest whirlpool.

Swimming

You won't have trouble finding a place to swim. In St. Andrews, **Katy's Cove** has a bath house and snack bar at a beach in a bay protected from the cold Passamaquoddy tides; the **Algonquin's heated pool** is open to the public for a small fee. **Causeway Beach** in St. Stephen is a saltwater beach with lifeguards. On Campobello Island, **Herring Cove Provincial Park** has a mile-long sandy beach, unsupervised, but popular for swimming.

Canoeing & Kayaking

At the **Adventure Center**, 13 Adventure Lane in St. George, ☎ 506/755-1023, you can sign up for Day Adventures by canoe or kayak, or you can rent a kayak right there and paddle along the canal.

By far our favorite way to spend a day in St. George is in the company of Glen Larson, exploring the shore and islands of the Bay of Fundy by kayak. Glen is the owner of **Piskahegan River Company** in St. George, ☎ 506/755-6269 or 800/640-8944; www.piskahegan.com. Piskahegan leads tours by both canoe and kayak. Depending on the tide and the skill level of the group, their kayak trips may begin at a rocky shingle beach somewhere along the bay, or right in St. George, below the falls, to ride the tide out to the mouth of the Magaguadavic River. Or an all-day trip may begin in St. George, travel the river, stop for a plentiful lunch on an island, then paddle along the coast to explore islands inhabited by seals, bald eagles and other wildlife. On these trips, you never know when you may round a skerry (a small, rocky island), as we once did, and come face to face with a seal sunning herself on the rocks, not a paddle's length away. Along the way are fish weirs to paddle around, broken boats and abandoned fishing shacks on island beaches. These are enchanting waters, protected by the islands that are scattered through them, but with enough high swells to

be interesting and challenging. The sea life and bird life presents an ever-changing cast: we have paddled through broken-down wharves and seen, clinging to its pilings, enough fat mussels to supply a French bistro on a Saturday night.

A three- to four-hour trip by canoe on the river or by kayak along the coast is $60; six- to seven-hour trips are $90. Longer trips through the islands, with overnight accommodations, begin at $245 for a couple. Piskahegan also does whitewater kayaking trips down Class I and II rapids on the St. Croix River on Sundays and Fridays. Weekend trips on the St. Croix and Chiputneticook lakes explore the waterway that forms the US-Canadian border. These cost $200, and include canoes and meals. Guides and instructors are highly experienced, and all equipment is provided on their trips. Whitewater kayakers can challenge the Fundy tides at Lepreau Basin, where Rte. 790 crosses a tidal flat. An hour before high tide, water rushes through the narrows under the bridge to fill the basin, kayakers with it.

Seascape Kayak Tours, Inc. in St. Andrews (☎ 877/448-4866 or 506/529-4866) offers a variety of kayak trips ranging from half-day to five days. Available through the Day Adventures program, "Escape to the Sea" is a kayaking experience designed for all skill levels and includes lessons, equipment, and an educational tour and interpretation. Full-day tours ($105) spend 4½ hours on the water and include lunch, and half-day tours ($55) include a snack and 2½ hours of paddling. Sunset paddles circle Navy Island, then put ashore for a lobster bake. For a longer kayak experience, you can take a guided three-day kayaking and camping trip with all kayaking and camping equipment furnished, as well as meals and transportation to the launch-site from either St. Andrews or the islands. Routes include the Fundy shore along the mainland, Deer and Campobello Islands, or an excursion into the upper reaches of Passamaquoddy Bay, following an estuary and camping on islands. The cost of a three-day trip is $345 per person or $650 per couple. A family of four gets a 10% discount. Seascape also rents kayaks and runs courses in beginning kayaking, sea kayaking safety and coastal guide training.

Three-day guided adventures with camping or country inn accommodations are arranged by **Outdoor Adventure Company**, ☎ 506/755-6415 or 800/667-2010. Experienced guides will show you how, so even beginning kayakers can enjoy these trips. Rates begin at $300 per person. Full-day trips with lodging and three meals are $139. Their three-hour guided kayak or canoe trips, with instruction and lunch, are $45 per person; children under eight ride free.

Guests at **Loon Bay Lodge** in St. Stephen, ☎ 506/466-1240 or 888/LOON-BAY, have use of the lodge's canoes for outings on the St. Croix River, which flows below the property, forming the international boundary. Guests at **Bonny River House Bed & Breakfast** in St. George, ☎ 506/755-2248, can use the inn's canoes to explore the river which surrounds the point where the inn is located.

Diving

Deer Island and **Campobello** offer outstanding diving, with 300-foot underwater cliffs, shipwrecks and a variety of sea life.

Certified divers can sign on for three hours of drift and wall dives in the waters off Deer Island with **Sparky Too Scuba Dive Charter**, Richardson, Deer Island, ☎ 506/747-2398, fax 747-2089, e-mail sparky@deerinet.nb.ca, www.deerinet.nb.ca/sparky. Groups of five or six divers will explore an area rich in sea life and possibilities for underwater photography. A two-tank dive, about three hours, is $40. Tank and weight belt rentals are available.

Navy Island Dive Company teaches diving (PADI certified) to individuals and groups and offers dive charters aboard their 23-foot boat. Rates are $50 for a two-tank dive (plus air). Diving equipment is available for rent at $30 a day for a complete set and tank refills are $7. Contact them at 15 Williams St., St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-4555.

Harbor & Bay Tours

A staggering assortment of boats leaves from St. Andrews, where you can choose trips at kiosks along Market Wharf or reserve through the Welcome Centre. If you have time, we suggest going to the wharf in the evening or in the morning to browse among the boats, most of which are docked there. You can talk to the captains and make reservations on the boat you like best. At the height of summer, it is, however, advisable to have a reservation ahead, especially if your time is limited, since many of the trips fill quickly.

BEWARE THE SEA MONSTER: Lake Utopia, close to St. George, has its own version of Nessie, a creature occasionally reported to have characteristics of both fish and reptile. Try your own luck at spotting the Lake Utopia Monster on a tour with **Natural Canal River Cruises** in St. George, ☎ 506/755-0920.

The craft vary widely. A classic sailing yacht, the 72-foot gaff-rigged ***Cory***, ☎ 506/529-8116, takes passengers on three-hour cruises through Passamaquoddy Bay. Nature interpretation and a snack and beverage are included for $50 per adult, $35 under age 16 and $42 for seniors. There are three departures a day during the summer, and passengers can do as much (hoist sails, take the helm) or as little as they please.

You can also trim sails or take a hand at the tiller of the sailing yacht *Miss T* with **Prince Yacht Charters**, ☎ 506/529-4185, on a three-hour bay cruise around the island where Champlain wintered in 1604. Adults pay

$40, youths $30, children $10. You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner for the sunset cruise (or they can provide one).

A high-speed catamaran takes a maximum of 12 for scenic and sunset cruises, nature tours, and aquaculture tours, operated by **Quoddy Link Marine**, ☎ 506/529-2600. A three-hour narrated cruise through the islands into the Bay of Fundy is $45, and includes hot chocolate and samples of local seafood. They also run a passenger ferry service to Campobello.

A 24-foot pontoon boat explores the natural canal that circumvents the falls in St. George, on trips with **Natural Canal River Cruises**, ☎ 506/755-0920. This canal is the only one of its kind in North America, and rare in the world. The boat leaves from the Day Adventure Centre and goes downstream to view the falls and gorge, then upstream to see beaver dams, birds, and possibly deer. A good seasoning of history adds spice to the nature-watching, as guides tell you about the days when St. George earned its nickname of Granite Town from the red granite taken from the quarries you will pass. Covered bridges and tales from the area's logging days add to the interest. Two-hour cruises cost $18 for adults, $10 for children.

For cruises that are primarily concerned with spotting whales, seals or birds, see below and *Wildlife-Watching*, page 50. For boats leaving from Grand Manan, see page 44.

Whale-Watching

For a more daring Day Adventure, take a two-hour trip out on a Zodiac Hurricane boat with **Fundy Tide Runners Whale Watching and Nature Tours** in St. Andrews. The cost is $48 per adult, and $28 for ages five-13, including full interpretation and a snack. ☎ 506/529-4481.

Cline Marine on Deer Island guarantees that you will see a whale on their summer trips, or you get another trip free; in the fall, you'll get a full refund. Tours last three hours and include narration by a naturalist; the cost is $45 ($20 age 12 and under). ☎ 506/747-2055 or 800/567-5880. This excursion may be reserved through the Day Adventures program.

Also leaving from Deer Island, which is very close to the whales' favorite feeding grounds, are boats run by **Lambert's Outer Island Tours**, ☎ 506/747-2426, fax 506/747-0886. Their two-hour tours include a snack of local seafood and are on a small six-passenger cruiser instead of a large tour boat. The cost is $40 for adults, $25 for children, or $110 for a whole family (up to four children, the boat's capacity).

Surge Inc. Tours in St. Andrews offers a full-day excursion that includes not only a whale-watch with ecological interpretation, but also a two-hour tour of Campobello Island and a full lunch. The cost is $120 per person for the entire day, although you may sign up for the whale watch or the tour separately. ☎ 506/529-8185.

Several whale-watching tours are available through the **Day Adventures** program. The cost is between $40 and $45 for adults, $20 to $25 for children 12 and under. All tours include a naturalist/guide and beverages, and many include snacks. Reservations are recommended to ensure a spot, especially in high season, and usually require a deposit. Contact the following operators for more information:

- **Sparky Too Scuba Dive Charters, Whale Tours, and Accommodations**, Deer Island, ☎ 506/747-2398.
- **Island Cruises**, Campobello Island, ☎ 506/752-1107.
- **Scenic Marine Tours**, St. George, ☎ 506/646-8985 or 506/653-7123.
- **Interactive Outdoors Limited**, St. George, ☎ 506/755-2699 or 800/214-6906
- **Island Quest Marine Ltd**, St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-9885.
- **Fundy Guardian Boat Tours Inc.**, St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-8838.
- **Retreat Charters**, St. Andrews, ☎ 506/636-0130.

Fishing

Interactive Outdoors in St. George, ☎ 506/755-6199, has three-hour fishing trips for flounder, mackerel and cod at $40 for adults and $20 for children under 12. Or you can fish for trophy-sized striped bass, which run to 50 pounds. Their boat accommodates four and costs $150 for half-day trips or $200 for a full day. They will also take you to their favorite fishing spot for smallmouth bass or fly-fishing for salmon.

■ On Snow

Because this region is so close to the moderating effect of the sea, snow is a variable that you can't always depend on. But the walking trails on the Fundy Islands and along the shore are used for cross-country skiing and showshoeing when the weather does cooperate. Ever the optimists, **Granite Town Hotel** in St. George, ☎ 506/755-6415 or 800/667-2010 offers special winter packages and sleigh rides. A two-hour ride is $10 for adults, $6 for children, and includes hot chocolate.

The **Algonquin** (☎ 506/529-8823 or 800/563-4299) and the **Hiram Walker Estate** (☎ 506/529-4210 or 800/470-4088, fax 506/529-4311) are both open in the winter, warm and welcoming retreats offering special packages. Both offer luxury lodging, candlelight dinners, truffles and the kind of pampering and personal attention a cozy winter getaway deserves. Rates begin at about $200 a night.

Adventures On Grand Manan

Getting around Grand Manan island is pretty simple: one main road runs its length, with a few side roads leading to coves and headlands. Grand Manan is about 15 miles long by five miles wide.

■ Grand Manan On Foot

More than 40 miles of hiking trails follow the rocky cliff-lined shore and crisscross the interior, often through low, almost stunted woods. The interior is mostly scrubby heath, bog and wetlands. This makes for wet trail conditions in some places, while the rocky nature of the coast makes other trails rough and uneven. Trails often skirt precipitous cliff edges, made all the more perilous when wet or after a rain when gullies and washouts remove portions of the trail. At low tide you can walk along much of the shore, but be sure to check the tide schedules, available everywhere, to avoid being stranded by a rising tide. Remember that the exceptionally high Fundy tides mean that water levels change quickly. As anywhere else, it is important to let someone know where you will be hiking and when you expect to return.

Hole-in-the-Wall, an impressive arched rock, is reached by a shore trail beginning at the Angelical Church. The trail takes you to an overlook above Whale Cove before turning along the shore to the rock formation. It is sometimes hard to find, so it is wise to get up-to-date directions from someone locally. You can also begin at Whale Cove, at the end of Swamp Rd., and walk along the shore to join the trail at the far end of the cove.

A shorter trail to Hole-in-the-Wall begins at the old airstrip inside **Hole-in-the-Wall Park**, a private campground and nature park that covers most of Fish Head. An admission fee of $3 allows you to use all the trails around the headland. The walk to Hole-in-the-Wall takes about 30 minutes. From there you can circle the entire head, all the way to **Swallowtail Lighthouse**, returning by the access road. Along the trail you will pass an old Indian pipestone quarry and a vein of barite that was once mined. A short **botanical walk** begins behind the park's reception office, passing through a grove of red spruce where fishermen once came to gather curving limbs perfect for building traps. Other branches that grew perfectly straight without knots were used as weir stakes. Ask for the descriptive brochure as you enter.

> **CAUTION:** At Hole-in-the-Wall Park, watch where you step, and be aware that when you are walking on the trail along the cliffs that there's not much ground underneath it.

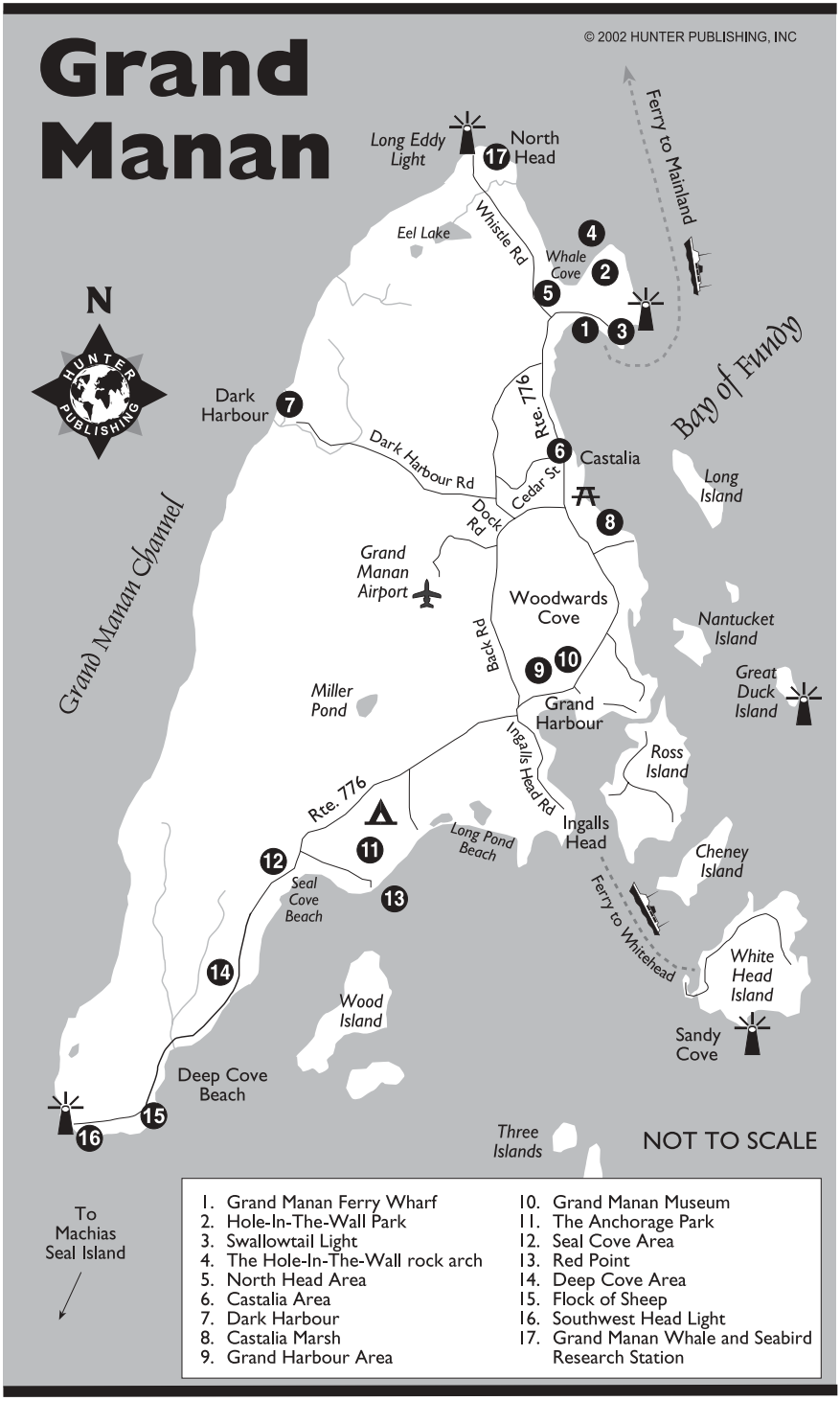
Between the beach at Deep Cove and the Southwest Cove Lighthouse, where the road ends, you will see a trail on the coastal side of the road. This trail leads through a mossy wooded ravine and along the coast to a series of ledges known as **Flock of Sheep**. The last glacier deposited some rounded white boulders, known as glacial erratics, along the ledges, and fishermen thought they looked like sheep when viewed from the sea. The rock formations here are interesting, with vertical intrusions of harder rock that weathered more slowly. The ledges are punctuated with tidal pools caught in the uneven surface. You can follow the trail all the way to the lighthouse and return either along the road or on the way you came. In August, bushes along the trail are full of giant raspberries.

Another stretch of trail leads from Ingalls Point to **Red Point**, well-known to geologists as the fault where the two distinctly different geological regions of the island meet. Rock to the west of the point is volcanic (dark gray), to the east sedimentary (reddish color). To reach the point, begin at Anchorage Provincial Park, parking at the beach and following the well-marked trail along the shore. It's about a mile to Red Point.

RECOMMENDED READING: The best source of information and readable maps for the island's trails is a booklet entitled ***Heritage Trails and Footpaths on Grand Manan***, available on the island or from Baldwin's Guest House in Seal Cove.

■ Grand Manan On Wheels

Cyclists will find roads easy for bicycling, although some have steep hills and none are especially wide. Drivers are bike-friendly, however, and traffic is light and moves at a leisurely pace. Rent bikes from **Adventure High**, ☎ 506/662-3563 or 800/732-5492.


Grand Manan
© 2002 HUNTER PUBLISHING, INC
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
Long Eddy Light
North Head
17
Ferry to Mainland
Eel Lake
Whistle Rd
Whale Cove
4
2
5
1
3
Bay of Fundy
Dark Harbour
7
Dark Harbour Rd
Rte. 776
6
Castalia
Cedar St
Dock Rd
8
Long Island
Grand Manan Channel
Grand Manan Airport
Woodwards Cove
Back Rd
9
10
Nantucket Island
Great Duck Island
Miller Pond
Grand Harbour
Ingalls Head Rd
Ross Island
Rte. 776
11
Long Pond Beach
Ingalls Head
Cheney Island
12
Seal Cove Beach
13
Ferry to Whitehead
White Head Island
14
Wood Island
Sandy Cove
Deep Cove Beach
15
16
Three Islands
NOT TO SCALE
To Machias Seal Island
1. Grand Manan Ferry Wharf
2. Hole-In-The-Wall Park
3. Swallowtail Light
4. The Hole-In-The-Wall rock arch
5. North Head Area
6. Castalia Area
7. Dark Harbour
8. Castalia Marsh
9. Grand Harbour Area
10. Grand Manan Museum
11. The Anchorage Park
12. Seal Cove Area
13. Red Point
14. Deep Cove Area
15. Flock of Sheep
16. Southwest Head Light
17. Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station

■ Grand Manan On Water

To view Hole-in-the-Wall from every angle, and to explore other stretches of the cliff-lined shore, sign on for a kayak trip with **Adventure High Sea Kayaking**, North Head, ☎ 506/662-3563 or 800/732-5492. Kayaking trips include full instruction for beginners. (We can testify to their quality, since we learned sea kayaking with them – and fell in love with the sport, despite an encounter with high winds on our very first venture.) A sunset paddle can include a lobster dinner prepared on the beach, with good conversation and fascinating local and Native American lore. Relaxing on the beach at twilight after an exhilarating paddle along the coast, while lobsters turn red in a pot over a beach fire, is quite possibly the most memorable of all Grand Manan experiences. Kayak trips and sunset excursions followed by dinner are available daily, May-October, for $35; $50 with a lobster dinner. It's worth adding that the mere $15 difference in price makes this the least expensive lobster dinner you're likely to find, not to mention the Camembert and smoked pollock appetizers and the potatoes cooked with dulse (see page 45) that go along with it.

The Outdoor Adventure Company & Granite Town Hotel offers the "Marine and Wildlife Tour," an all-day program that includes instruction not only in handling a kayak, but in choosing one for your needs (several kinds will be there to try), as well as kayak safety. During the trip you will visit small islands in search of seals and birds. The all-day tour is $90 for adults and $70 for children; half-days are $49 and $40 respectively. Full-day trips include a lunch, and all include refreshments. This trip can be reserved through the Day Adventures program. Plenty of other activities are also offered by the Outdoor Adventure Company, such as whale watching, boat tours, heritage tours, and murder mystery weekends. Find out more at www.havefun.net; ☎ 800/667-2010 or 506/755-6415 to reserve.

Eastern Outdoors offers full- and half-day kayaking excursions that include equipment use, instruction for all levels, and guides that point out the seals, whales, eagles, and other wildlife. Full-day excursions are $59 per person, and a half-day is $29. You may reserve through Day Adventures, or call ☎ 800/56KAYAK. Eastern Outdoors has six locations, and also offers whale watching, whitewater rafting, bike rentals, and plenty of other outdoor adventures.

Seascape Kayak Tours, Inc., in St. Andrews (☎ 877/448-4866 or 506/529-4866), offers a variety of kayak trips ranging from a half-day to five days, as well as mountain bike rentals, skill courses, and wilderness medicine courses. "Escape to the Sea," available through the Day Adventures program, is a kayaking experience designed for all skill levels that includes lessons, equipment, and an educational tour and interpretation. Full-day tours ($105) spend 4½ hours on the water and include lunch, and half-day tours ($55) include a snack and 2½ hours paddling.

For a more daring Day Adventure, take a two-hour trip on a Zodiac Hurricane boat with **Fundy Tide Runners Whale Watching and Nature Tours** in St. Andrews. $48 per adult, and $28 for ages five-13, including full interpretation and a snack. ☎ 506/529-4481.

■ Wildlife-Watching on Grand Manan

Bird-watching

With more than 250 species of birds sighted on and around the island (including puffins) and the whales that swim regularly off its shores, Grand Manan is a favorite of birders and whale enthusiasts. Look for birds while exploring the shore by kayak or from the hiking trails that lead to secluded coves and along the rims of cliffs. John James Audubon first reported the exceptional variety of Grand Manan birdlife in the 1830s, and ornithologists have been visiting to see puffins, arctic terns, bald eagles and other birds ever since.

The Marsh in Castalia is a good place to observe birds. When the tide is low, you can sometimes see 3,000-year-old tree stumps from a sunken forest. Look also for seals, either on the rocks at low tide or swimming offshore at high tide. You can observe birds from blinds at Long Pond and Great Pond in **The Anchorage Park**. At **Bradford's Cove** on the west shore of the island you can often see bald eagles; it can be reached by an orange-blazed trail from Deep Cove (you can also reach it along the cliffs from Southwest Head, but the trail is overgrown, muddy and exasperating to follow).

For Serious Birders

Perseverance will help you if you want to spend a day watching the birds on **Machias Seal Island**, since only 13 people are allowed to visit per day. But your efforts will be amply rewarded, especially if you're a puffin lover. You'll be very impressed with the enclosed blinds, where you can watch the stout birds – which actually do look like all those little plush puffin toys – go about their day without the stress of humans tiptoeing around them. This is the only place in the hemisphere where you can watch these birds from blinds. You'll also be able to watch other nesting birds interact, such as razorbills, terns, eider ducks, and guillemots. In the late summer, you will likely see pomarine and parasitic jaegers, black-legged kittiwakes, red and rednecked phalaropes, northern gannets, and Manx and sooty shearwaters.

Lest you think the island was misnamed, be assured that the seals are here, too. North Rock, which is just off the island, has plenty of them, including the gray seal, which was once thought to be extinct, and the harbor seal. From out here, it's also possible to get a glimpse at some of the bigger ocean mammals – at the end of July and during the month of Au-

gust, you might see humpbacks, fin whales, or even a North Atlantic right whale if you're lucky.

To get to the island, you must book the trip in advance (well in advance during busy tourist seasons) with **Sea Watch Tours**, ☎ 506/662-8552, fax 506/662-1081. It's a full six-hour trip, so pack a good lunch and clothes that will keep you warm. Wearing rubber-soled shoes is also important, since the rocks will be wet and slippery, even though you will have plenty of help from the crew in getting ashore. Binoculars and camera are essentials; don't underestimate how many pictures you may want to take. The trip costs $60 per person, and you should make reservations as far in advance as you can, because tours fill up fast.

DID YOU KNOW? Grand Manan's geology is just as fascinating and important to scientists as its birdlife. The island is formed from a combination of six-billion-year-old formations and much younger volcanic deposits. (See information about Red Point, page 40.)

Whale-Watching

Several excursion boats operate whale-watches from the island. Ask your innkeeper's advice before reserving, since some operators cancel trips arbitrarily, too late for you to re-book with another operator. Like islanders elsewhere, the captains of Grand Manan vessels are an independent lot. Among those our innkeepers have suggested as reliable are **Island Coast Boat Tours**, ☎ 506/662-8181, fax 506/662-9904; and **Sea Watch Tours**, ☎ 506/662?-8552, fax 506/662-1081. Whale-watch rates are about $40-$50, and the best months to see whales are August and September. **Ocean Search** offers a full day at sea with a marine biologist, ☎ 506/662-8488.

TIP: Although morning whale-watch trips normally leave at 7 am – usually too early to have breakfast at your inn – the waters are calmer then than they are at 12:30 pm when the afternoon trips leave.

You can also reserve a spot through the Day Adventures program with **Grand Manan Sea-Land Adventures Ltd.** on their seven-hour sail, where you will learn plenty about the area and go to the feeding grounds of the right whale. A full meal and limitless coffee, tea, and juice are served. The cost is $75 for adults, $37 for children under 12; ☎ 506/662-8997. The Day Adventures program also allows you to book guided whale-watching tours off Grand Manan with **Sea View Adventures** (☎ 506/

662-3211 or 800/586-1922) or with **Whales-n-Sails Adventure Ltd.** (☎ 506/662-1999) for four-hour trips.

Although their purpose is deep-sea fishing, you are likely to spot whales or porpoises on a fishing trip with **Big Fish Deep Sea Charters**, ☎ 506/662-5362, fax 506/662-8670. A three- to five-hour trip with instruction and all tackle and bait is $35 for adults and $20 for children. **Grand Island Deep Sea Fishing**, ☎ 506/662-8673, also runs deep-sea fishing trips.

Eco-Travel on Grand Manan

To learn more about the geology and birdlife of the island, visit the **Grand Manan Museum** in Grand Harbour, ☎ 506/662-3524. It's open Monday-Saturday, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday, 2 to 5 pm, from mid-June through September. Along with displays on the island's unique geology, it features its equally unique history, and has a collection of mounted bird species found on the island.

To learn about the creatures that live above, on and under the sea, stop at the **Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station** at North Head, ☎ 506/662-3804. It's small, but you'll find exhibits that include everything from a whale skull to porpoise parasites.

■ Grand Manan's Culinary Delights

If you haven't already tried **dulse**, the seaweed gathered and dried throughout the area and used as a snack and as flavoring, Grand Manan is the place to do it. Dark Harbour, the only settlement (a term we use loosely here) on the cliff-lined western shore, is the island's dulse-gathering center. Dulse is sold in snack-size bags, and locals munch it like potato chips. It's an acquired taste, and few people who didn't grow up eating it find it yummy. During June, July, and August, dulser Ronald Flagg will educate groups of two to 15 on how to harvest the sea vegetables of Grand Manan at **The Anchorage Park**. The 1½-hour tour is $5 for adults and $3 for children, and is dependent upon the tides for dulse picking times. Call the park at ☎ 506/662-7022 or reserve through the Day Adventures Learning Quest program.

Herring is the other local specialty from the sea, and you can often go out in the morning on a herring boat. Mackerel, herring, and salmon are turned into delicacies in island smokehouses, beginning late in July and continuing into fall and winter. You can buy these at the Saturday morning Farmers' Market in North Head, along with produce, preserves and island crafts, from mid-June through September.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

In St. Andrews, gardeners and bird-lovers will want to visit **Steven Smith Designs and Crocker Hill Studios** at 45 King St., just off Water St., ☎ 506/529-4303. It's a charming shop in an historic 1834 brick building that was once the Registry of Deeds. Steven's bird paintings are well-known among art collectors, and he has moved his studio here from the beautiful hillside gardens he built in nearby St. Stephen. Providing the setting for Steven's art, the shop is filled with gardening suplies, books, and products. Look here for bird and wildflower guides, too. Garden lovers everywhere regret that Steven and Gail's Crocker Hill Gardens, which have been featured in nearly every garden magazine in Canada and the US, are no longer open to the public, but will enjoy the smaller scale garden surrounding the beautifully restored old brick building.

A newly landscaped and constructed arboretum and garden of more than 900 perennial varieties and nearly as many specimen trees is now open at **Kingsbrae Horticultural Garden**, at the head of King St. in St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-3335, fax 506/529-4875, e-mail kinghort@nbnet.nb.ca. Kingsbrae, a 27-acre former private estate garden, has been fully renovated, with extensive collections of roses and daylilies, several fountains, and a labyrinth. A portion of the garden has been left natural, with trails winding through the wildflowers. The views of Ministers Island and Passamaquoddy Bay are superb. You will note that this is a horticultural garden, not a botanical garden, so it is designed for visual appeal, and labels show common, not Latin names. Instead of focusing on scientific collections, the garden is more artistic; it's sort of a plant zoo designed for visitors to enjoy as much as to learn from. Although the garden is quite new, their summer program for ages seven-12 is so popular that it is fully booked a year in advance. Admission to the garden is $6, $4 for seniors. A guided tour, followed by afternoon tea in their attractive Garden Café, is offered as a Day Adventure for $20 ($17 for seniors, $10 for those under age six). Each week during the growing season, special programs bring gardening experts for lectures and guided walks. The garden opens mid- to late May with a dazzling display of 10,000 bulbs in bloom, and closes with the first frost, usually in mid-October.

Natural history and fine arts and crafts meet at the **Sunbury Shores Arts & Nature Centre** on Water St. in St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-3386. In its galleries, open year-round, you'll find changing exhibits featuring art from all over Canada, but primarily from the local area and Atlantic provinces. Films, concerts, workshops and courses fill their schedule, with intensive one-week summer courses aimed at those in the area for short stays. These range from wildlife illustration and pottery to marine ecology. Art and nature workshops are designed especially for children, with a different theme each week, including whales, rocks, insects and using local plants.

Plan to be at **Huntsman Aquarium Museum**, Brandy Cove Rd., St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-1202, at 11 am or 4 pm, when they feed the seals. Visitors are invited to plunge their hands into the aquarium for a personal encounter with starfish, sea cucumbers, lobsters, and other marine life. Exhibits illustrate the work of marine biologists, which is the main reason for this facility (St. Andrews is a major center for marine biological research). The museum is open daily, 10 am to 6 pm in July and August; 10 am to 4:30 pm in May and June; Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm, in September and October. Admission is $3.50 adult, $2.50 child, $3 senior, $10 family.

Wild blueberries and balsam are at the heart of **Granite Town Farms** at 151 Brunswick St. in St. George, ☎ 506/755-6314. Jams, jellies and blueberry syrup are packed in boxes made from cedar grown on the farm. In the fall, the place is redolent with the sweet woodsy scents of their balsam wreaths.

The border town of St. Stephen joins Calais, Maine, to celebrate their long-standing friendship with an **International Festival** during the first week of August. The two bridges over the river that separates the two towns are busy as residents and tourists move back and forth for the music, parades and other activities, while officers at the two customs stations continue to check the papers of cars crossing the border. Canadian and American flags fly together in both towns.

This area has its share of phenomena caused by the Fundy tides, which rush in and out of Passamaquoddy Bay past a series of small islands that are set like teeth at the mouth of the bay. The tide pushing its way through these channels creates North America's largest whirlpool, which is called **The Old Sow**. It's the second-largest tidal whirlpool in the world. You will pass it on the ferry between Deer Island and Campobello,

if the tide is right, or you can see it from the top of the hill at Deer Island Point Camping Park, where campers have a ringside seat. Avoid it in canoes, kayaks, and even in powered craft.

The rocks of the Quoddy shores and islands are carved in fantastic shapes by the sea, including several natural arches – most notably those on Grand Manan and Deer Island, both known as **Hole-in-the-Wall**. Those interested in geology can find fossils and agates on the beaches of Back Bay near Letete, and mineral specimens, some of them semi-precious stones, in the old quarries at St. George. Along the shore of St. Andrews at low tide you can find quartz, peridotite, agate and both brown and red jasper. You can also find flint in yellow, brown, gray and black, but it is not a native stone. It was brought as ballast by ships sent to return full of timber and fish, and when they arrived they dumped the flint overboard. In the intervening centuries it has broken and been smoothed into pebbles by the tides. You may also find coral, also brought as ballast, this time by ships from the West Indies.

If, like us, you find bogs among the earth's most fascinating phenomena, you will be interested to know that about one-third of the **Roosevelt Campobello International Park's** 2,800 acres of natural area is composed of raised heath-covered bogs. The locations of these and a thorough description of their formation is given in a brochure appropriately entitled *The Bogs of Roosevelt Campobello International Park*, available free at the visitors' center.

■ Salmon Rule the Waves

You will meet the salmon wherever you go here, not just on menus and on your plate. But seldom will you meet this impressive fish eye-to-eye as you will at the **Atlantic Salmon Federation Conservation Centre**, Rte. 127, St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-4581. The viewing window is built into the water of Chamcook Creek, a natural spawning habitat for salmon. Displays inside the center show what this area looked like when Chamcook Creek was a thriving lumber and commercial center (the site of North America's first paper mill), and tell more about the life cycles of the salmon. A movie on the salmon runs continuously. You will learn fascinating bits of information here, such as the fact that while Atlantic salmon spawn repeatedly, Pacific salmon die in the streams after spawning. Actually, the Atlantic salmon is more closely related to the trout than to the Pacific salmon. A display on fly-fishing honors the world's great anglers, with flies from their personal collections. The center is open 9-5 daily, from mid-May through mid-October. Admission is $4, $2.50 for children, $10 for a family of four. Pre-schoolers get in free. On your way back to the parking lot, walk along the trail on the far side of the creek to see the various habitats in its pools, described by interpretive signs.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: The **Atlantic Salmon Federation Conservation Centre** (24 Chamcook Rd., St. Andrews) and the Day Adventures program offer a chance to see how a fish hatchery operates and a chance to taste the results with "Leap Into Learning," a special tour and dinner package. You will be given a three-hour tour and full access to the centre's facilities and trails, a 10% discount at the gift shop, and a salmon barbecue. The entire day costs $29.95 for adults; $14.95 for children six-12. ☎ 506/529-4581 for reservations, or visit www. fishfriends. net for information.

During the summer you can watch salmon jump the ladder at the falls in St. George. The dam prevented salmon from returning to their spawning pools, so the concrete **St. George Fishway** was built to get them upstream. South St. and Portage St. lead to the bridge below the falls, from which you get a good view of the gorge.

Learn how fish farming is helping save the Atlantic salmon, and why the waters here are the perfect habitat, on a **PC Fish Farm Tour** at Head Harbour Wharf at the northern tip of Campobello Island, ☎ 506/752-2296.

For another view of the salmon, visit **Oven Head Salmon Smokers**, Oven Head Rd., ☎ 506/755-8333. They are off Rte. 1 about four miles west of St. George near the junction with Rte.760. The turn is by Ossie's Restaurant. You can tour the small smokehouse and learn how they turn the bounty of the local waters into one of the most admired of all seafood products. You can also sample and buy their maple-smoked salmon here daily from 8 am until 9 pm.

Those who love smoked salmon will appreciate the Learning Quest program at **New River Beach Provincial Park** (☎ 506/755-4042), where you will learn how to create your own delicacies over maple-wood chips. For $5 ($3 for children), Phyllis Farquharson of New River Smokers not only teaches the skill, but sends you home with plenty of recipes to try out. The activity lasts two hours, and is offered on Tuesday evenings from June through September.

TIP: If you forget, as we did, to stop at the Brunswick factory on Grand Manan to purchase some canned sardines or smoked oysters, all is not lost. When you disembark from the ferry at Blacks Harbour, you can run into **Keith's Building Supplies** at 516 Main St. and pick up a couple of cases there. The prices are a tad higher than at the factory itself, but still low.

■ Wildlife-Watching

Minkes, humpbacks, finbacks, right whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals all swim in the waters of Fundy and Passamaquoddy Bays. Grand Manan has a recorded total of over 250 bird species, and the entire area is prime birding country.

On Campobello Island, you can often see whales from the rocky promontory at **East Quoddy Head Lighthouse**, where you can have a picnic on the cliffs and watch whales in the channel. To go on a whale-watch trip by boat from Campobello, contact **Cline Marine**, ☎ 506/529-4188 or 800/567-5880. A boat leaves Head Harbour at 10 am and 3 pm, mid-June through September, with fares of $30 for adults and $15 for children. Cline Marine's five-hour whale-watches leave St. Andrews at 8:30 am and 2 pm daily.

Whale-watching tours are operated by **Interactive Outdoors** in St. George, ☎ 506/755-2699 or 800/214-6906. Trips on their 23-foot *Little Jenna* tour places where you're likely to spot whales, seals, porpoises, herring weirs and salmon farms. The cost is $40 per adult, and includes lunch. They depart at 9 am, 1 pm and 5 pm, June through September.

Roosevelt Campobello International Park lies on the Atlantic flyway, with 2,800 acres of habitat that includes bogs, saltwater and freshwater marshes, open fields, thickets, cliffs, ponds and several types of forest. From May, when the resident songbirds return, until October, when the largest waterbird movement occurs and the winter residents return, the park has a constant variety of bird activity. An excellent brochure, *Birds of Campobello*, free at the visitors center, has a map and descriptions of the 12 major habitats and observation areas, along with a checklist of the species seen there.

Sightseeing

■ Campobello Island

Campobello Island is only about three miles long, but it's long on history and home of a rare international park, **Roosevelt Campobello International Park**, Rte. 774, ☎ 506/752-2922. President Franklin Roosevelt spent his childhood and early adult summers on Campobello Island, and it was at this 34-room cottage that he was stricken with polio. The cottage, for all its size (it was a big family, and they brought their staff with them), is rustic and quite unpretentious. Its gardens are beautiful. The Visitors Centre has Roosevelt family photographs on display, and there is an excellent 15-minute film, *Beloved Island*, about the family's summers here, which you should see before touring the cottage. Admission is free, and the cottage is open daily, 10 am to 6 pm, May through mid-October, with the last cottage tour beginning at 4:45 pm. You can also tour the neighboring **Hubbard Cottage**, a more elegant and luxurious home with an unusual oval picture window overlooking the bay. This cottage is open to the public in July and August when it's not in use. In 1960, the movie *Sunrise at Campobello*, starring Greer Garson and Ralph Bellamy as Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, was filmed here.

While you are on Campobello, drive to the far end of the island to see **East Quoddy Head Lighthouse**, the most photographed lighthouse in eastern Canada, and scramble over the rocky causeway to the lighthouse itself, if you are there at low tide. Watch for whales from the high cliffs here.

■ St. Andrews

St. Andrews is a pleasure to stroll through, especially with the help of the booklet, *A Guide to Historic St. Andrews*, free at the Welcome Centre. Just admiring the architecture of three centuries lining its streets is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

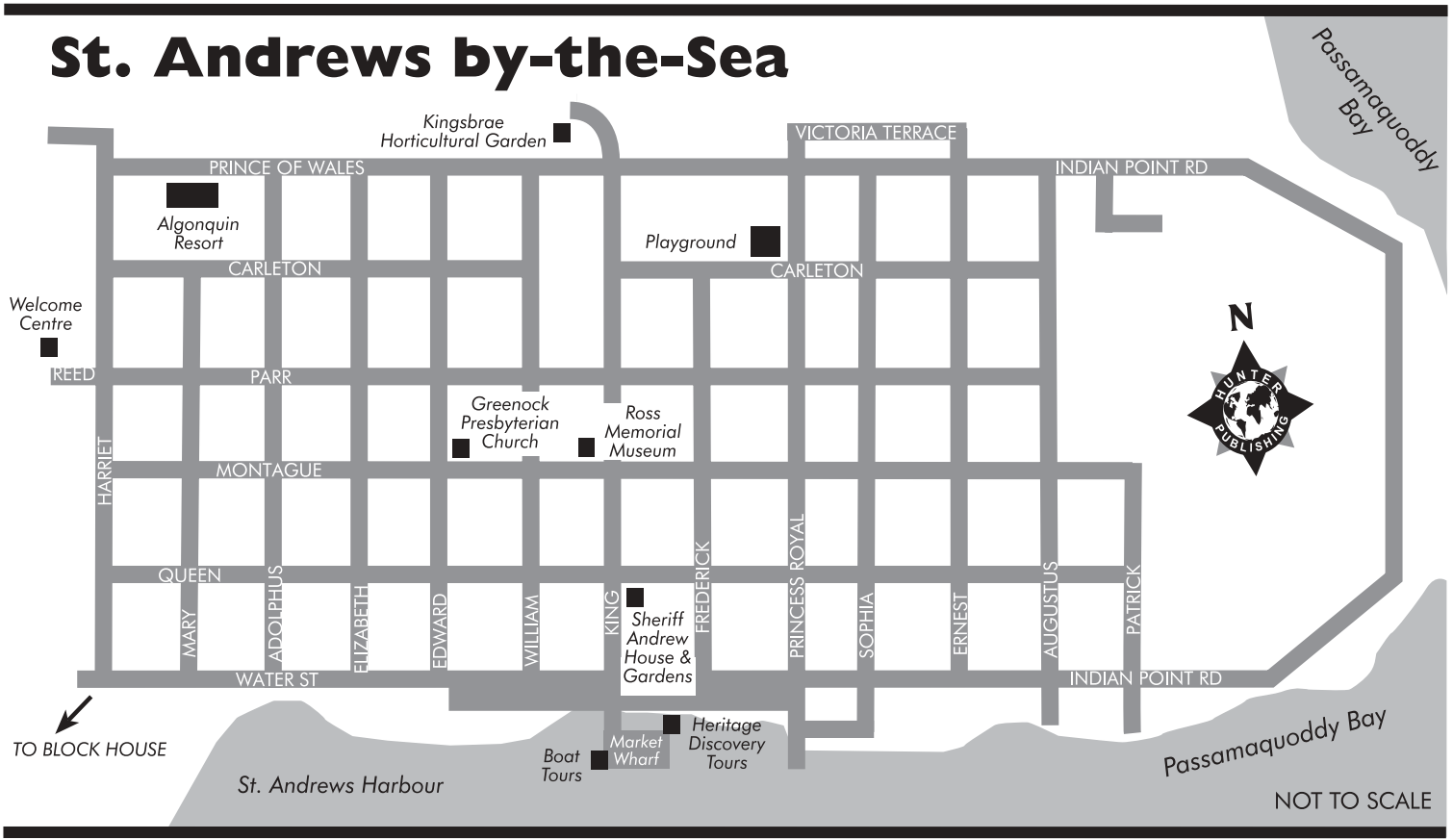
St. Andrews Blockhouse National Historic Site on Water St. is open daily, 9 am to 8 pm, June through August, and 9 am to 5 pm in early September. It is the lone survivor of 12 blockhouses built along the New Brunswick coast in the War of 1812. Admission is $1 for adults, free for children. Across the street is Centennial Park.

Two American summer residents of St. Andrews left their 1824 neoclassic house to the town as **Ross Memorial Museum**, 188 Montague St., ☎ 506/529-1824. The museum is filled with antique furnishings, paintings and decorative arts from their collections. Each year a different part of their collection is featured, so it's a place you can return to year after year. In July and August, the museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, 1:30 to 4 pm; from late May through June and September through mid-October hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Donations are requested. The Rosses' own home, Rossmount, is listed under *Where to Stay & Eat*, page 55.

To see period rooms restored and furnished in the style of the 1820s, visit the **Sheriff Andrews House**, King and Queen streets, ☎ 506/529-5080. Along with household equipment of the era, the house has a basement "keeping room" with beehive ovens. Guests touring the house may be welcomed there by a docent in period costume offering samples of molasses cookies warm from the oven. Admission to the house is free, and it's open Monday through Saturday 9:30 to 4:30, Sunday 1-4:30.

> **TIP:** A full tour of both the above museums, hearth and beehive oven cooking lessons, and a candlelight dinner is offered in the Day Adventures program "An Appetite for Antiques." The cost is $35 per person, and you get to take home the recipes.

Sir William Van Horne was largely responsible for making St. Andrews into the summer resort of the wealthy, a turn of events that not only saved historic St. Andrews, but gave it its wealth of turn-of-the-century architecture. He was president of Canadian Pacific Railways and insisted on the line's extension to St. Andrews and the building of the Algonquin as a resort destination for its passengers. He built his own summer home, a complete operating farm that includes an enormous livestock barn, on an island accessible only at low tide, now open to the public as **Ministers Island Historic Site**, Bar Rd., ☎ 506/529-5081. You can go there only with a tour, although you drive your own car across the sandbar. Daily tours are scheduled for low tide, June through mid-October, and cost $5 adult, $2.50 ages 13-18. A tide schedule is posted at the bar, which is under 10 feet of seawater at high tide. The tour, which also includes Sir William's bathhouse with a tidal swimming pool, his windmill, and giant barn, takes about two hours.



New Brunswick

Chocolate lovers – or anyone with a sweet tooth – should stop in nearby St. Stephen at the **Ganong Chocolatier** company store, 73 Milltown Blvd., near the US border, ☎ 506/465-5611. More than 80 kinds of chocolates are sold here; the best bargain are the seconds that had to be redipped. Ganong is open 9 am to 8 pm, Monday-Friday; 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday; and 11 am to 5 pm, Sunday.

How could the town that originated the candy bar fail to have a museum of chocolatiana? They couldn't, of course, and you can tour **The Chocolate Museum**, ☎ 506/446-7848, next to Ganong Chocolatier, on your own or as part of "The Great Chocolate Experience" on a Day Adventure. Along with a visit to the museum and chocolate shop, you get a walking tour of great chocolate sites and a chocolate treat to take home. The cost is $10 for adults, $8 students and seniors, $6 under age six. This tour is available May through November, and the stops on it are wheelchair-accessible. Admission to the museum alone is $4 adult, $3.50 seniors and students, $2.50 under age six. The family rate is $10.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ In St. Andrews

The **Algonquin Hotel** is one of Canada's premier resort hotels. Two golf courses, a heated outdoor pool, tennis, aerobics classes, lawn croquet and a health club keep guests busy at this famous landmark, set in its own hilltop park framed by stunning gardens. Rooms in the new wing all have air conditioning and two queen-size beds; some also have kitchenettes. A bagpiper parades the front lawn at tea time, and non-guests are welcome

to enjoy the music, too. Although the Algonquin is expensive, its facilities and the variety of special packages that include extras make it a good value. Its restaurant, the Passamaquoddy Veranda, serves a lunch buffet ($$) and Sunday brunch, as well as dinner ($$-$$$) nightly. Transport from the Saint John airport can be arranged at $35 per person, less for groups. 184 Adolphus St., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-8823, 800/563-4299 in the US, fax 506/529-4194. ($$$)

Few inns or B&Bs can match the genuine warm hospitality of the **Hiram Walker Estate Heritage Inn**. When you sink into one of the sumptuous white sofas for afternoon tea in the elegant parlor, you really do feel like a house-guest in a private home. Possibly that's because its engaging owners have restored and decorated this showpiece mansion as their own family home. Rooms are luxurious and elegant without being frilly or overdone. (We like Room 6, but each one has its own appeal.) Do plan to eat dinner there at least once; it's by reservation only. Breakfast is a work of art, so you can imagine what dinner's like. Although the mansion is quite sumptuous, it is never pompous, and its setting amid spacious lawns has plenty of space for deer to roam. You can watch them as you eat breakfast or relax in the hot tub just off the wide back terrace. The golf course is within an easy walk. 109 Reed Ace., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-4210, fax 506/529-4311. ($$-$$$)

In the same upscale Algonquin neighborhood is **Pansy Patch**. A small B&B, it's in one of the town's many architecturally remarkable "cottages" of white stucco, with a round turret. Breakfast is served overlooking the gardens. Guests can use the Algonquin pool and spa. 59 Carleton St., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3834, off-season 617/965-2601, fax 617/964-7115. ($$$$)

The town's third manor house inn, **Kingsbrae Arms**, is luxury all the way, as well as pricey, with rooms that can only be described as grand, with amenities to match. The get-away-from-it-all atmosphere of canopy beds, fireplaces, silk-covered easy chairs, soft robes and fresh flowers seems almost at odds with the state-of-the-art data ports and cable TVs in each room. 219 King St., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-1897, fax 506/529-1197. ($$$$$)

Another fine estate, on the slopes of Mt. Chamcook, has been transformed into a warm and welcoming hotel: **Rossmount Inn**. Built as the home of the wealthy Rosses (who furnished the Ross Memorial Museum with their priceless collections; see page 52), its public rooms are furnished with antiques, many of which spill over into the guest rooms. Guests can take brisk walks on the trail to the summit, for the best view over the entire peninsula. Rte. 127, St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3351, fax 506/529-1920, e-mail mackarch@nbnet.nb.ca, Web site www.sn2000.nb.ca/comp/rossmount-inn. $$-$$$

TIP: Many lodgings in this area close after the summer or fall foliage season, so if you are planning a winter or early spring trip consult the latest ***New Brunswick Travel Planner,*** which gives dates of operation for all the listed lodgings. Contact New Brunswick Tourism at ☎ 800/561-0123 to obtain a copy.

To stay right in the center of town, a block from the waterfront where all the boat adventures depart, choose **The Windsor House of St. Andrews**. The skillfully restored home, built in 1798, is furnished with distinguished examples of the artistry and craftsmanship of the years from 1780 to 1920, much of it by New Brunswick cabinetmakers. The restaurant is superb, with well-spaced tables in a genteel setting, seamless service and a menu of creative dishes based on fresh local ingredients. Starter choices might be asparagus spears and artichoke hearts in a vinaigrette of sundried tomatoes, or a smoked salmon mousse enveloped in thinly sliced smoked salmon. The boeuf forestiere is a tenderloin steak with wild mushrooms and a sauce of Stilton cheese. Presentations are works of art. We mentioned at dinner one evening that it was our wedding anniversary and, when our dessert was served, "Happy Anniversary" was inscribed in chocolate around the plate rim. A five-course dinner is $75, three course is $55. Breakfast fruits are perfect – each berry at its peak, the melon carved into leaf shapes. A dish of rhubarb may be surrounded by matched fresh strawberry slices, garnished with blueberries, mint leaves and borage blossoms. The inn serves a smashing afternoon tea, which we always seem to miss because we're out kayaking or sailing. Next time. 132 Water St., St. Andrews, NB E0G2X0; ☎ 506/529-3330 or 888/890-9463; fax 506/529-4063. ($$$)

Seaside Beach Resort is a homey, comfortable compound of waterfront apartments with kitchens, overlooking the harbor. Barbecues and picnic tables on the lawn, and rowboats at the shore are all for guests' use. The hosts really enjoy their guests, many of whom reserve each year for the following season. 339 Water St. (PO Box 310), St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3846. ($$)

There's only one cottage available in the area, and anyone who's stayed there wants to come back, so call early to reserve the little shingled cottage at **Sea Garden**. The gardens in which it hides are breathtaking and set on the edge of the bay. 469 Water St., St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3225. ($-$$)

Opposite the Algonquin's golf course is the tidy **Picket Fence Motel**. Nothing fancy, but clean and comfortable; some rooms have a two-burner stove, refrigerator and sink. 102 Reed Ave. (PO Box 424), St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506 529-8985. ($-$$)

For a complete change of pace – from any place you're likely to find in St. Andrews or elsewhere – stop at **Salty Towers**. Not only is the price refreshing, but the casual and decidedly quirky atmosphere contrasts sharply with the rest of the town. It has the air of a pre-World War II seaside guest house, but without the fussiness. Make your own breakfast in the cavernous kitchen and chat with the gregarious artist who keeps it all together. It's not for those who like a place for everything and everything in its place. 340 Water St., St. Andrews E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-4585. ($)

Chef's Café is open June through August and claims to be Canada's oldest restaurant, which we've never heard disputed. Nor does anyone dispute the quality of the fish & chips they serve here. 180 Water St., ☎ 506/529-8888. ($$)

For a view over the harbor and bay and well-prepared dishes made from its denizens, reserve a table at the **Lighthouse Restaurant**. Everyone raves about the fisherman's plate, abounding in haddock, scallops, and shrimp; it's the place of choice for a lobster dinner. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Water St., ☎ 506/529-3082. ($$)

The Gables is noisy and casual, but a good choice for lobster roll, chowder, steamers or pasta, as well as fish cooked in a variety of ways. Their take on the traditional French Canadian meat pie – tourtière – is interesting and flavorful, even if it only barely resembles those our Mémère used to make. Their blueberry pie is outstanding, made with a mixture of fresh and cooked berries.You can eat indoors or on the large patio overlooking the bay. 143 Water St., ☎ 506/529-3440. ($)

The Garden Café, at Kingsbrae Garden, is a bright and stylish spot for light lunches or afternoon tea. 220 King St., St. Andrews; ☎ 506/529-3335.

■ The Mainland & Inner Islands

Blair House Heritage Breakfast Inn serves a full English breakfast. The atmosphere is warm and relaxed in this elegant Victorian home within walking distance of downtown St. Stephen. 38 Prince William St. (PO Box 112), St. Stephen, NB E3L 2W9, ☎ 506/466-2233, fax 506/466-2233. ($-$$)

Located next to the Tourist Information Centre in St. Stephen is the **Grill & Griddle Restaurant**, in the St. Stephen's Inn. The name tells you what to expect here, but it doesn't tell you about their desserts, which are all baked in-house. ☎ 506/466-1814. ($)

Bonny River House Bed & Breakfast sits on a point, surrounded by river on three sides. After a breakfast with homemade breads you can use the inn's canoes to explore the river. RR#3, St. George, NB E0G 2Y0, ☎ 506/755-2248. ($-$$)

Making St. George a center for outdoor adventure has been a long-time goal of the owners of the **Granite Town Hotel and Country Inn**. At their attractive modern hotel, which you can see from Rte. 1, they have a full-service adventure center, with everything from winter sleigh rides to kayak trips, as well as a restaurant. 15 Main St., St. George, NB E0G 2Y0, ☎ 506/755-6415, fax 506/755-6009. ($$)

You'll find clams, fish & chips, roast pork, halibut or hot turkey sandwiches in the tidy green-and-white dining room at **Fred's River's End Restaurant**. 4 Wallace St., St. George, ☎ 506/755-1121. ($-$$)

The setting doesn't get any better than at **Mariner's Inn**. It stands on an elevation above a wild stretch of shoreline; highly accommodating hosts are an added bonus. Cove Rd. (Chance Harbour RR#2), Lepreau, NB E0G 2H0, ☎ 506/659-2619 or 888/783-2455, fax 506/659-1890.

For a traditional sporting lodge atmosphere, spend an outdoorsy vacation in one of the upscale log cabins clustered around **Loon Bay Lodge**. It overlooks the St. Croix River, where you can catch your own dinner (they'll cook it for you) or use the lodge's canoes to explore. Rte.745 (PO Box 101), St. Stephen, NB E3L 2W9, ☎ 506/466-1240 or 888/LOON-BAY, fax 506/466-4213. ($$)

On Campobello Island, efficiency units are available at the well-kept **Friar's Bay Motor Lodge and Restaurant**. It's close to the international park and the beach. The restaurant ($-$$) serves traditional home-style dishes. Rte. 774, Welshpool, Campobello, NB E0G3H0, ☎ 506/752-2056. ($)

Owen House was built in the 1830s, with an enclosed sunporch overlooking the water. Bounteous breakfasts and homey, rather old-fashioned bedrooms are just right for its family summer cottage ambience. Rte. 774, Welshpool, Campobello, NB E0G 3H0, ☎ 506/752-2977. ($-$$)

Halfway between the equator and North Pole is the **45th Parallel Motel and Restaurant**. The motel overlooks the Western Passage from a hilltop, and the restaurant specializes in seafood and home-style country cooking. Deer Island, ☎ 506/747-2231. ($-$$)

■ On Grand Manan

You should reserve lodgings here before you arrive, because vacancies are few in the summer. It's also a good idea to make dinner reservations early. Places with a North Head address are closest to the ferry landing, probably the best choices for those arriving without wheels. Most inns are open May through October.

Shore Crest Lodge Country Inn is close to the landing, with bright, airy rooms and a wide front porch where you can watch the world go by. Their restaurant ($-$$) specializes in fresh seafood, prepared in a variety

of interesting and traditional ways. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-3216 or (Nov-Apr) 410/247-8310. ($$)

Aristotle's Lantern is a homey inn with good-humored hosts and a full restaurant. Go there in the afternoon for a real cream tea, served on fine china. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-3788. ($$)

Compass Rose has comfortable rooms of varying size, some with sea views, in two old island homes. Its restaurant ($-$$) overlooks the water, and serves afternoon tea, as well as lunch and dinner. The chowder is thick, creamy, and filled with flaky chunks of fresh fish. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-8570 or (November-April) 514/458-2607. ($$)

Marathon Inn is larger than most on the island, with 28 rooms, some with shared bath. It has tennis courts, hiking trails begin at its door, and the owners are helpful in advising about local outdoor activities. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-8144. ($$)

Some distance from the village in a lovely cove setting is **The Inn at Whale Cove Cottages**. Some rooms are in the inn, and there are two self-catering cottages, one of which, Orchardside, was used for many years by novelist Willa Cather. The dining room is outstanding, as are the lunches-to-go from Cove Cuisine, their food and catering shop. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-3181. ($$)

If you like the privacy of your own seaside cottage, try the brand new **Seaside Haven Cottages**. They are open year-round, have laundry facilities, and give discounts to seniors. Grand Harbour, PO Box 45, Castalia, Grand Manan, NB E0G 1L0, ☎ 506/662-3377. ($$)

On the southern end of the island, in the center of a highly scenic fishing village, sits **McLaughlin's Wharf Inn**. Its rooms, all of which share bathrooms, overlook the harbor. So does the attractive restaurant, where you can reserve ahead for a lobster dinner or order other entrées from the full menu. Seal Cove, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-8760. ($$)

The **Griff-Inn Restaurant** serves fresh seafood overlooking the waters where it was caught. Three meals a day are hearty and never ho-hum, from the morning porridge to the scallops and shrimp with anisette. North Head, ☎ 506/662-8360. ($$)

For live lobsters to cook yourself or fresh-boiled to eat on the dock, go to **Lindsays Lobsters**. On the public landing at Grand Harbour, ☎ 506/662-3623.

■ Camping

Tents and RVs fill a point overlooking the bay at **Passamaquoddy Park**. The Kiwanis Club, which owns and maintains it nicely, accepts reservations. PO Box 116, St. Andrews, NB E0G 2X0, ☎ 506/529-3439.

Deer Island Point Camping Park has open sites for tents and trailers and the island's best view of the whirlpool, The Old Sow. The wilderness campsites along the shoreline are more secluded and shaded by woods, but you must carry your gear there on foot. Lord's Cove, Deer Island, NB E0G 2J0, ☎ 506/747-2423.

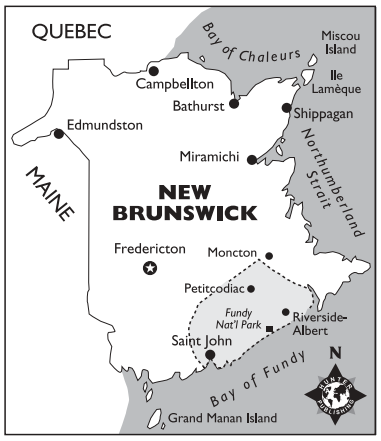
Herring Cove Park has a camping area with electrical hookups and tent sites, a nine-hole golf course, and a mile-long sandy beach (unsupervised). Inside the park is also a seafood restaurant. Welshpool, Campobello Island, NB E0G 3H0, ☎ 506/752-7010.

Those with a head for heights (and without small children) can camp along the clifftops overlooking the sea at **Hole in the Wall Park Campground** at North Head. Wooded sites away from the cliffs are better for those with children. The staff naturalist leads programs and walks exploring the scenic headland, which includes several interesting geological features and an ancient pipestone quarry. North Head, Grand Manan, NB E0G 2M0, ☎ 506/662-3152, fax 506/662-3593.

Also on Grand Manan, on the lower eastern shore, is **The Anchorage Park**. It has an unsupervised beach and encompasses a wildlife preserve. There are well-maintained tent sites and areas with trailer hook-ups. Fees are $20 for tent sites, $23 with hookups. Rte. 776, ☎ 506/662-3215.

The Fundy Coast

The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world, creating a land- and seascape that changes dramatically twice each day. Broad bays and estuaries filled with water change suddenly to wide expanses of deep red mud, often carved into sculptured contours by the force of the tide. Rock formations are even more fantastic, with sea caves, soaring cliffs and bluffs and unusual offshore sea stacks that rise like giant flowerpots planted with clusters of pointed fir trees. Other tide-related phenomena punctuate the area: reversing rapids, tidal bores, whirlpools and tremendous bird



populations that thrive in the marshlands constantly fed with freshly arrived sea-borne food.

It is the part of Atlantic Canada through which the most travelers pass, but it is one of the least known and least explored. Most stop only to see the famous "Reversing Falls" and Hopewell Rocks, some use Fundy National Park as a stopover, but most hurry on to reach the ferry or road to somewhere else. Except for the busy Rte. 1, the roads of this beautiful area are left to the rest of us. Most of those who hurry past never know that they are passing the only wilderness remaining on the entire east coast of North America. They've never explored the sea caves in the lovely town of St. Martins, kayaked among the sea stacks and islands and under the soaring cliffs, looked down into the sea from the new road piercing the edge of the Big Salmon River's domain, or stayed in the elegant Victorian mansions that have become fine country inns. Nor have they explored the backroads of the inland valleys in search of covered bridges or spent a lazy week on a houseboat in its long scenic lakes.

Geography & History

Although county lines are of little concern to the casual traveler, it just happens that the borders we've drawn to delineate the Fundy region are exactly those shown on the provincial map as the borders of Saint John and King's counties. To those we've added the area south and west of Moncton, bordered on the west by the Petitcodiac River.

The map gives you a good idea of the land north of Saint John, where several long bays, which look more like lakes, bring the waters of the Kennebecasis and St. John rivers to meet at Grand Bay and flow through the narrow channel and to the Bay of Fundy. Rolling hills drop to lakeside towns; farther north, long valleys cut through more hills in a region of fertile farms.

But the map gives no clue at all to the dramatic Fundy coastline. Unless, of course, you are a very astute map reader and wonder why there are no towns or roads in most of the area between St. Martins and Fundy National Park. Only a relief map would explain this, for the Big Salmon River, Little Salmon River and several others flow through deep gorges, some so wide that the challenge of spanning them with a bridge has prevented the construction of a through road. This is a wilderness of steep slopes and dense forest, and a wall of rock hundreds of feet tall forms the precipitous shore along most of this section of the Bay of Fundy.

A scenic roadway with lookout points and steep trails leading down to the shore has just been constructed from St. Martins into a portion of this area, but it stops at Big Salmon River. Whether it will eventually go through, as is planned, to become a serious rival to Cape Breton Island's famous Cabot Trail is anyone's guess, but until it does, the spectacular sea

cliffs beyond the Big Salmon River are accessible only by hiking long distances in from either side, camping along the trail. Many people – and we are among them – hope that this will be left as it is, the last and only real wilderness area south of Labrador on the entire east coast of North America. To ruin these stunning shores and their estuaries with highway bridges would be a grievous mistake for which future generations would never forgive the province and federal government, cohorts in the plan.

Saint John, the Fundy shore's principal city (in fact, it's the province's largest city), is older than Québec, Montreal or Toronto. Founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1604, it was the site of a French fort built in 1631 for the fur trade and for defense against the English. The English conquered it, but it changed hands between English and French several more times before becoming an incorporated English city in 1785, after an influx of Loyalists arrived, fleeing the American Revolution.

These were not ordinary refugees. The thousands who fled, rather than join the rebels against the crown, were successful colonists, including many of New England's prominent leaders (not surprising, since they had the most to lose from a split with the crown) and they breathed new life into Saint John and the surrounding area, turning it into a major shipbuilding center and commercial port.

Getting Around

Saint John, the southern gateway to the Fundy Coast, is about an hour from the Maine/New Brunswick international boundary at Calais/St. Stephen. Driving north through Maine, the route numbers don't even change when you cross the border; US1 becomes **NB1**, and leads you to Saint John and on through the center of the region until it joins the east-west **TransCanada Highway 2** at Sussex. A few miles east of this junction, TransCanada-2 meets **Rte. 114**, which leads to Fundy National Park.

You have two choices if you are arriving from Nova Scotia: one by land, one by sea. When you enter from Nova Scotia at Aulac, you must go northward to **Moncton** before heading south into the Fundy Coast, since the wide tidal Petitcodiac River forms a natural barrier, unbridged until Moncton.

The sea route leads directly from **Digby**, on the western end of Nova Scotia, where a car ferry crosses the bay three times daily in the summer, less often the rest of the year. The trip takes just under three hours, and the cost for a car is about $80. Foot passengers crossing for the day pay $30 round-trip; bicycles or trailers are $20 in high season, $15 the rest of the year. You do need a reservation for your car; ☎ 800/249-SAIL (7245) or 506/649-7777, www. nflbay.com.

Air Nova (☎ 800/272-9662, www.airnova.ca) connects Saint John and Moncton to Halifax, and from there to several US cities. You can rent a car at the airport in Saint John (be sure to reserve ahead); all the major companies have representatives there.

IS IT SAINT JOHN OR ST. JOHN?

You may not get a complete consensus on this question, but one thing is certain: when you are referring to the city in New Brunswick, it is always Saint John. The issue with the river is a little less clear. Generations of school children in the province have been taught to spell them the same, but the newer "official" spelling abbreviates the river to St. John. While not everyone agrees, we have gone with the new thinking, not because we are especially modern, but because we note that the river's first European explorer, Samuel de Champlain, who first named it in his journal, spelled it (in French, of course) St. Jean. If it was good enough for Sam, it's good enough for us. But either way, don't make the mistake of spelling – or pronouncing – either of them "St. John's." That's the capital of Newfoundland, a fact you need to remember if you are boarding a plane bound for either airport. And the Newfoundland city does not spell out "saint." So it's the St. John River, Saint John in New Brunswick, and St. John's in Newfoundland.

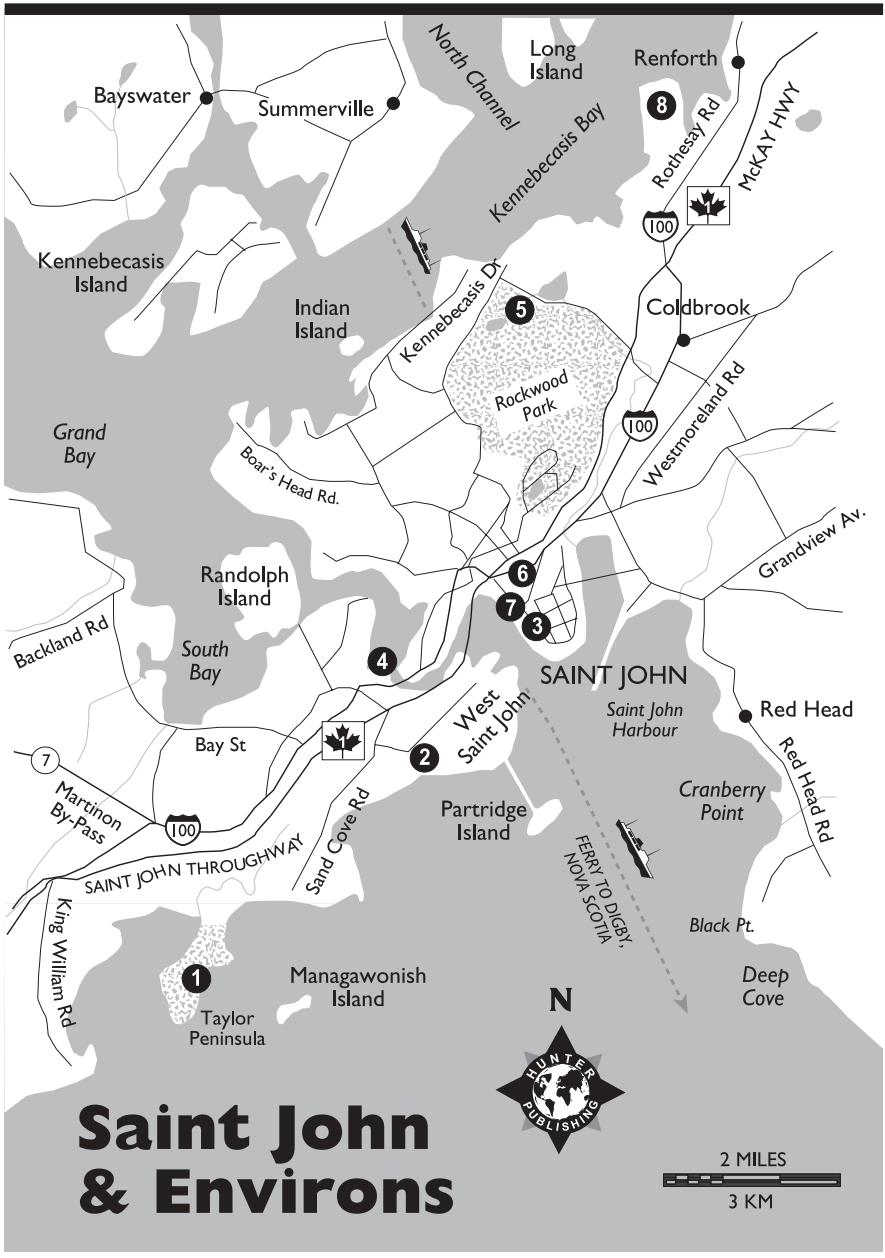
TIP: When you arrive in the Saint John area, be sure to get a **tide table** (available at tourist information and visitor centers) so you can plan the best times to visit **Reversing Falls Rapids** and **Hopewell Rocks**, both of which are tide-dependent.

Information Sources

Saint John has four tourist information centers: **Reversing Falls Bridge** on Rte. 100 (☎ 506/658-2937); **Market Square** at the downtown waterfront (☎ 506/658-2855); on **Rte. 1** west of the city (☎ 506/658-2940); and at the **airport**. The latter is open year-round, the others from mid-May to mid-October, 9 am to 6 pm, with longer hours during July and August.

The **Visitor and Convention Bureau** on the 11th floor at City Hall (PO Box 1971), Saint John, NB E2L 4L1 (☎ 506/658-2990) is open weekdays year-round, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The **Kings County Tourist Centre** on Maple Ave. in Sussex, at the junction of Rtes. 1 and 890, is staffed by the most helpful group of senior vol-



1. Irving Nature Park
2. Carleton Martello Tower
3. Loyalist Trail / Historic Area *(see map on page 77)*
4. Reversing Falls
5. Cherry Brook Zoo
6. Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre; Sciencescape
7. Tourist Information Centre; Market Square; New Brunswick Museum
8. Kennebecasis Park

unteers, who'll offer you coffee and tell you anything you want to know about their area. It's open 9 am until 9 pm, mid-May to mid-October, ☎ 506/433-2214. Be sure to get a copy of the covered bridge map. Or stop at the **in-town information center** at the old railway station on Broad St. (☎ 506/433-6602).

The **St. Martins Tourist Information Centre** is in a lighthouse-shaped building at the end of Main St. by the wharves, ☎ 506/833-2209.

Adventures

Fundy National Park is the area's centerpiece for hiking and several other outdoor activities, with 60 miles of hiking and walking trails providing views of its coastal cliffs, boreal forests and bogs. To enter the park you'll have to buy daily or four-day permits for each person. These cost about $3.50 for adults, half-price for children, or $7 for a family per day, and three times those fees for four-day passes. These permits entitle you to use the roads, trails, picnic areas, and facilities of the Visitor Centre. Swimming, camping and some other activities require an extra fee. So far, fees have only been levied between mid-May and mid-October, although the park is open year-round. Pick up a copy of the free guide *Salt and Fir*, available at the entrance, which describes park activities and attractions. The visitor centers in the park have shops with excellent reference books and pamphlets on various aspects of the park and its natural history. If you plan to do any hiking, be sure to buy a copy of the trail guide, which includes a topographical map.

Included in the entrance permit during July and August are 1½-hour Learning Quests, which may be reserved through the Day Adventures program. "Catch the Rising Tide" is led by a park interpreter, and guests learn about the ecology and unique characteristics of the Fundy tides, as well as the impact of humans on the bay. Tour times depend on the tide, so be sure to call ahead. "Discover the Magical Fundy Forest" is offered on Sunday afternoons, and consists of a 2.8-km hike guided by Rachel Paquette, a biologist and naturalist who will point out nature's secrets and answer nearly any question you may have.

The park is located near the village of Alma, on Rte. 114. For information, contact them at PO Box 40, Alma, NB E0A 1B0, ☎ 506/887-6000, fax 506/887-6008, e-mail Fundy_info@.gc.ca; or visit the park's Web site at http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/parks/new_brunswick/fundy/fundy_e.htm. The Visitor Centre and Information Centre each have Day Adventures information and voucher sales desks.

KID FRIENDLY: In July and August at the **Fundy National Park**, interpreters lead children ages six-12 on an hour-long Learning Quest. Youngsters visit a beaver pond, get involved with nature, and learn all about the park aquatic life. The cost is included in the park entrance permit, but reservations should be made ahead of time (☎ 506/887-6000).

■ On Foot

Hiking

Fundy National Park has 60 miles of hiking trails, including a circuit of 30 miles of linked trails through all the park's biosystems. To hike it takes three or four days, so there are wilderness campsites along it. Be sure you have a copy of the park's trail guide, which includes a topographical map, before starting on any but the short self-guided nature trails.

Dickson Falls is reached by an easy 30- to 45-minute walk on a loop trail through the forest. The falls itself is viewed from a platform. The **Caribou Plain Trail** offers a boardwalk accessible to those in wheelchairs, and the entire two-mile hike is over gentle terrain on a smooth trail. It passes over northern bog landscape and through forests, passing a beaver dam. Be sure to take the side trail to an overlook with a good view of the bog; interpretive signs explain its formation and the plant life found there.

Third Vault Falls are the highest in the park at 53 feet, and the in-and-back trail is just over two miles each way. Although it is level most of the way, there is some climbing as you approach the falls. Like any waterfall, this is more impressive when water levels are high, but even in mid-summer it is well worth the hike.

Kinnie Brook Trail is a moderately strenuous hike, under two miles round-trip, but it passes some of the park's most interesting geological features, including a gorge, large boulders, and a stream that flows through glacial formations, often disappearing completely. Interpretive signs explain the glaciation. Several small waterfalls near the end of the trail add to its appeal.

Different geological forces are at work in **Devil's Half Acre**, reached by a loop trail less than a mile in length. Layers of shale underneath the surface sandstone move as water seeps in and freezes. The splits and deep fissures in the rock change as the rock below is constantly shifting; movements of more than six inches a year have been recorded, uprooting trees and causing the area to look as though something had been tearing it apart, hence the name. Interpretive signs explain the geology.

East Branch Trail shows how human, instead of geologic, action has changed the face of the land. The entire loop is about 3½ miles, but the trail is easy and fairly level. About halfway you will come to an old logging dam and yard, where the logs were cut and stored before they were floated down the Point Wolfe River to the sawmill at its mouth. Interpretive signs tell of the logging days, but history is less certain on the strange earth mounds near the beginning of the trail. These were once believed to be native burial places, but more recent investigation suggests that they are not.

An interesting short walk near the mouth of the river completes the picture of what this area looked like in logging days. The half-mile **Shiphaven Trail**, off the end of Point Wolfe Rd., leads to the remains of a dam and the site of the sawmill where the logs were made into boards. Even if early industrial history doesn't interest you, the walk leads to some nice views of the coastal cliffs and the estuary. Interpretive signs explain lumbering and its effects on the Atlantic salmon.

Geology and human activity combine in **Coppermine Trail**, an easy three-mile loop past a turn-of-the-century copper and gold mine. Although you can go either direction at the fork just after you cross the brook (this is the meeting point for the two ends of the loop), we suggest taking the right-hand option, since the grade is gentler; it's easier to go down the steeper places.

DID YOU KNOW? The Pejepscott Paper Company, the pulp and paper division of Hearst newspapers, once owned 75,000 acres of some of North America's finest timberlands, which they used in their massive lumbering program. This land along the Big Salmon and Little Salmon rivers produced the pulpwood for decades of Hearst newspapers, and its center of activity was in the logging community at the mouth of Big Salmon River. Dozens of homes, a school and bunkhouses for loggers studded the steep bank of the ravine carved by the river. Extensive wharves filled the shore, where barges were built and launched to carry the wood. The first of these was launched in 1907, but by the late 1920s the community had begun to dwindle and the Hearst timbering operation turned from pulpwood to lumber.

Dedicated hikers will want to follow the trail along the **Upper Salmon River** from the park headquarters in Alma. Although the whole trail is much longer, you can follow it for the first three miles to reach **Black Hole**, a large pool where salmon stop in the late summer and early fall,

before continuing their journey upstream to spawn. Black Hole is also accessible from the other side via **Black Hole Trail**, a moderate, seven-mile hike round-trip. If you have someone to pick you up at the other end, you can return via the Black Hole Trail instead of retracing your path.

The Upper Salmon River Trail continues to follow the river past its confluence with tributaries, then along the Broad River to the beautiful **Broad River Falls**. From here, if you have someone to meet you at the other end, continue on the 1½-mile **Moosehorn Trail**, with a brief side trip to the right to see another waterfall. Those who just want to see this waterfall can hike Moosehorn Trail by itself, or combine it into a loop with the **Laverty Falls Trail**.

The continent's last **Atlantic coastal wilderness** south of Labrador is a vast stretch between St. Martins and Fundy National Park, where the Big Salmon River, Little Salmon River and several others cut into the soaring cliffs that meet the sea. All around it is woodland growing on an inhospitable terrain of deep gullies and ravines and steep mountainsides. Very few people have penetrated this area traversed only by trails, to walk along the rim or on the beaches beneath the 180-foot cliffs.

While you can drive the newly built **Fundy Trail Parkway** or hike the nine-mile round-trip from the beginning of the multi-purpose trail to the banks of the Big Salmon River on your own – the trail is well-marked – you should have a guide to do any further exploring in this wilderness, unless you are an experienced wilderness hiker and well prepared for the trip. The Fundy Trail Parkway, which runs from St. Martins to the Big Salmon River, is a remarkable step toward making the western part of this area accessible to everyone. It is designed as a bicycle trail, eight feet wide, with its steeper sections fully paved and signage warning of curves and hills more complete than most automobile roads. It is fully wheelchair accessible, although the grades are long and steep in places. The views are often splendid, and side trails lead down to the shore at Melvin Beach. But many walkers find it disappointing, for all its state-of-the-art construction. There is little sense of being in the wilderness, since it is within sight and earshot of the road for much of the way. The same views are visible from picnic pavilions and overlooks, which the trail and road share. Those who prefer less manicured trails through a not-so-parklike setting should consider driving to the Big Salmon River and begin their hike there, so they can see the upper, undeveloped reaches of this coastal wilderness.

Although the views from the lookouts along the trail are indeed splendid, be sure to take the side trails that lead down to the several coves and beaches along the way. Our favorite of these is the steep trail that leads down to the base of **Fuller Falls**. The parking area is easy to spot where the road makes a deep hairpin curve above the sea. The trail leads to a cobble beach in a cove, where the rocks are so water-worn that you can easily find perfectly symmetrical spheres, eggs and disks. Their colors vary from pure white quartz to pink feldspar to red, to shades of green,

brown and gray. We are incapable of leaving that rocky cove without filling our pockets with stones. Just beyond is the trail down to **Pangburn Beach**, a long stretch of sand backed by steep cliffs.

NIGHT LIFE AT THE PARK? Guided walks exploring **Fundy Night Life** are held in the evenings at the Caribou Plain Trail. The three-hour walks with a park naturalist cost $12 for adults, $8 for children and $33 for a family. Owls are usually a feature of these night adventures. This activity may also be reserved through the Day Adventures program.

At the end of the parkway, a new **interpretive center** overlooks the deep cut of Big Salmon River, with displays and a film about the lumber town that once stood here. Beside the trail you can see cellar holes of some of the buildings. A swinging footbridge crosses the river near the center, leading to the wilderness trails. For more information on the Fundy Trail Parkway, contact the headquarters at 229 Main Street in St. Martins; ☎ 506/833-2028, www.fundytrailparkway.com.

The **Fundy Foot Path** connects the end of the parkway at Big Salmon River with the trail network of Fundy National Park, a total of about 30 miles. The trail passes about a dozen headlands that jut out into the bay of Fundy between Big Salmon River and the national park. The path, built and maintained by volunteers, is more rugged and adventurous than its better-known counterpart, the Pacific Rim Trail.

HIKING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ One outfitter who knows the Atlantic coastal wilderness area and its wildlife well is **Fundy Hiking and Nature Tours**, ☎ 800/56FUNDY or 506/833-2534. The cost of a guide and a hearty trail lunch is $40 a person for a full day. They can also provide trained guides to take you on less strenuous walks in the St. Martins area, including birding walks and natural history explorations, at the same price. (See page 79 for winter explorations of the area.)

■ To explore the area on a longer trail-camping trip, reserve a guide from **Cape Enrage Adventures**, ☎ 506/887-2273. A minimum of four hikers is required, at $50 each per day.

■ **Adair's Wilderness Lodge**, in Shepody (☎ 506/432-6687, see *Where to Stay & Eat*, page 102), arranges a variety of interesting day hikes in the Big Salmon River area, including a historical tour on foot and by van, of old lumber camps. Adair's is situated inside this vast wilderness, with access to a network of trails. One of these, about two miles long, circles Walton Lake, where moose and

loons are a common sight. The Scholl's Lake Trail is marked with interpretive signs pointing out the most significant botanical points. Adair's also provides shuttle service for guests hiking on the Fundy Footpath.

The town of Hillsborough has several walking trails, all adjacent to the TransCanada Trail, which follows the old rail bed. Most of the trails center around the **Hillsborough Wetlands Park** (☎ 506/734-3733), an area of grasslands reclaimed by Acadian dikes that were begun hundreds of years ago. The **Gray Marsh Trail** circles a marshy pond near the golf course. Parking and trailhead are on Golf Club Rd., which leaves Rte. 114 opposite the park's interpretive center, just south of the town center, near the railroad station. Another trail begins at the interpretive center, crossing, then following the TransCanada Trail for a ways, continuing on to a wrecked wharf on the Petitcodiac River. These wetlands are particularly rich in birdlife, and you may see muskrat lodges in the water.

In Riverside-Albert, on Rte. 114 east of Fundy National Park, is the trailhead for the **Crooked Creek Trail**, which climbs to two views over the Caledonia Mountains. The second, and better, of the views is also accessible by car, but to us the attraction of the trail is not in the scenery but in the interesting environments of the trail itself. The climb to the first lookout takes about 25 minutes, mostly uphill, through an open forest fragrant with balsam, with bunchberry, starflower and clintonia blooms in the spring giving way to pink wood sorrel in the summer. Unfortunately, the fine wooden observation tower is positioned so that the view has a powerline tower smack in the middle of it. The view from the second outlook, where the trail comes out onto a road, is splendid, however, overlooking the deep cut of Crooked Creek and two forested mountain ranges. This view is especially nice in the fall, when the hardwood forests are ablaze in reds and oranges. Parking for the trailhead is opposite the town offices of Riverside-Albert, on Rte. 114. To reach the view without the climb, take King St. from Rte. 114 and keep going uphill until the road ends, a bit over a mile from Rte. 114.

Walking Tours & Routes

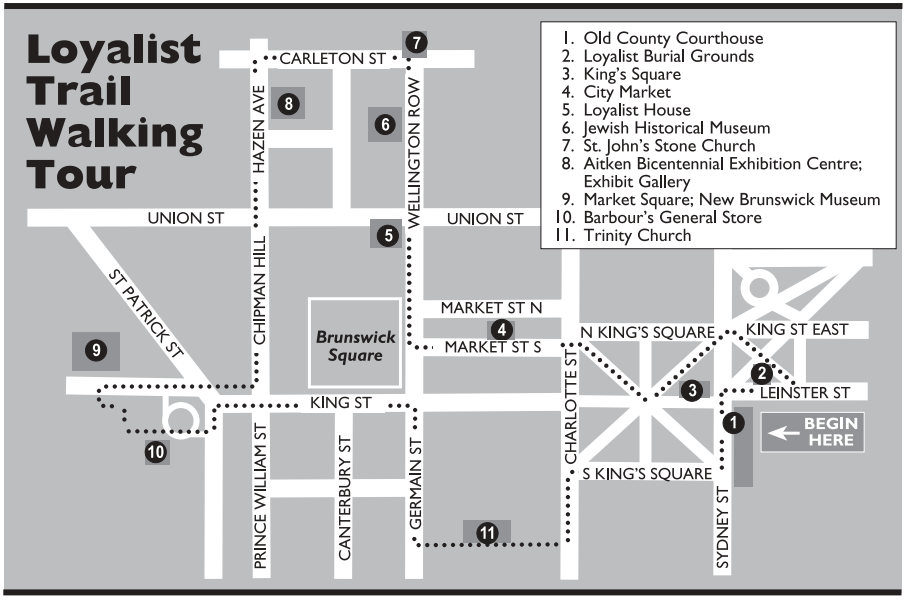
Several good walking routes lie within the city of Saint John, several of them in **Irving Nature Park** off Sand Cove Rd., ☎ 506/653-7367. (To get there from downtown, follow Rte. 1 west to Exit 107A; go over the bridge past the blinking light and up the hill, turning right onto Sand Cove Rd.) This 450-acre point is circled by a mile-long dirt road along the shore, and has picnic and parking areas. Four interconnected hiking trails range from just under a mile to four miles long, each leading along the shore, where you can see some of the 230 bird species that have been sighted here (including plover), as well as seals and porpoises. Maps are available at the entrance. The park is free and open daily from dawn to dusk. You

can hike here year-round, but from December through May you have to leave vehicles at the gate.

In the heart of the city, **Saint John's Loyalist Trail** is lined by historical landmarks best explored on foot, with a map/brochure from the Tourist Information Centre. Begin at the **Old County Courthouse**, facing King's Square, and go inside to see its unsupported spiral staircase with each of its 49 steps a single piece of stone. The Loyalist Burial Ground, just to the east of King's Square, has headstones dating to 1784. As you walk through King's Square, with its elaborate Victorian bandstand, notice the Union Jack pattern of the walks. **St. John's Stone Church**, on Carleton St., is the city's oldest church building, dating from 1825, built of stone brought as ship ballast from England. Its 12-story steeple is topped by a six-foot gold salmon. In the summer guides will take you on a tour of this historic building. **Trinity Church** was built in 1880, after its predecessor was lost in the Great Fire of 1877. Be sure to notice the British royal arms over the west door; it has had several narrow escapes. First saved by Loyalists fleeing Boston, where it hung in the Boston Council Chamber, it was then rescued from the original church as it was burning.

The tourist office has maps describing two other self-guided walking tours. The **Victorian Stroll** explores the elegant 19th-century residential streets of downtown Saint John, noting the architecture of the fine old homes. **Prince William's Walk** follows the city's mercantile history.

Free 90-minute walking tours begin at **Barbour's Store** at 10 am and 2 pm in July and August; for information, ☎ 506/658-2939. The strong of heart can take ghost walks offered occasionally by the **Interpretation Center** in Rockwood Park, ☎ 506/658-2829.



The town of **Sussex** has several fine restored Victorian homes, identified with plaques and shown on the **walking tour map**, available free from local businesses or at the Tourist Centre. The tour begins at the Agricultural Museum. Be sure to stop and sample the waters at the **Mineral Spring Fountain** on Church Ave.

Those who like stories of buried treasure will like the "History of Fundy Walk 'n Talk" at the **New River Beach Provincial Park**. Historian and writer David Goss leads groups along the shore, telling the oral history of the coast on summer evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. The cost is $5 for adults and $3 for ages 12 and under. Reserve with the park (☎ 506/755-4042) or through the Day Adventures Learning Quest program.

WALKING ON AIR

Cape Enrage Adventures, on Rte. 915 about halfway between Alma and Riverside-Albert, offers rappelling instruction for both adults and older children. Basic instruction and full equipment for descents down the 145-foot vertical cliffs to a fossil beach on the Bay of Fundy are $45 per person or $120 for a family (up to 10 children included). Groups are limited in size so that everyone gets a maximum number of turns descending the cliffs. The center emphasizes safety while encouraging participants to try various styles in a highly controlled (but also very thrilling) environment. ☎ 506/887-2273 for information.

■ On Wheels

Bicycling

Cyclists of all energy levels will find good routes in this area, where the terrain varies from high headlands and rolling hills to low coastal plain and river valleys. If you are arriving from Nova Scotia by bicycle, you can bring it over on the ferry from Digby to Saint John for $11.25 in the summer, $7 off-season (mid-October to early June).

In **Fundy National Park**, six trails are open to mountain bikes. **Black Hole** is a seven-mile in-and-out trail on an old woods road, with an ascent of about 650 feet. **Marvin Lake Trail** runs 10 miles along an old cart road leading to two wilderness lakes, where you may see moose and beaver. It has an 800-foot ascent, quite steep in the first section. **Maple Grove** is a five-mile trail climbing continuously through open forest. **Bennett Brook Trail** is open to bikes only to the end of the logging road, where a trail begins the descent to the Point Wolfe River. The first half-mile of the **Goose River Trail** is a steep climb, as is the beginning of the return trip, when you must climb back up from the beach, but the coastal views are worth it. **East Branch Trail** is a loop for hikers, but bikes must

go and return on the same trail. At the fork where the two routes split, take the one to the right.

The pastoral countryside and rolling hills of the Kennebecasis Valley are perfect for bicycling, and you can explore them on a five-hour guided tour with **Eastwind Cycle** in Sussex, ☎ 506/433-6439, fax 506/433-6439. You'll cycle through at least six covered bridges, learning about the cultural and natural history of the area as you ride. Quality bicycles are included, as is lunch at one of the area's best-known restaurants, the Broadway Café (see page 97). The entire package is $45 per person. Or you can head into the coastal wilderness area of Martin Head for a full-day guided mountain bike tour. Martin Head is a small tidal island, isolated not only by the water, but by about an hour's drive from the nearest settlement. It's rugged country, with steep descents to beaches (and even steeper climbs back up). The day's adventure includes bicycle and helmet rental, van shuttle, a picnic lunch and the guide, for $60.

From St. Martins to the Big Salmon River, a wide, smooth all-purpose trail parallels **Fundy Trail Parkway**. Mountain bikers we talked to didn't care for its manicured surface, paved grades and highway-like signs, but it does offer miles of scenic off-road travel for cyclists (many of whom walk the steepest parts). The worst grade is at the very end, when the trail drops from the headlands to Big Salmon River in a series of very steep switchbacks. Since the trail runs close to the road from St. Martins to Big Salmon River, if you want to cycle shorter sections you can access it from any of the overlooks along the way.

BICYCLE OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Florentine Manor**, RR#2, Albert, NB E0A 1A0, ☎ 506/882-2271 or 800/665-2271, only 20 minutes from the national park, has bicycles available for guests, as does **The Quaco Inn**, 16 Beech St., St. Martins, NB E0G 2Z0, ☎ 506/833-4772, fax 506/833-2531.

■ In Hampton, rent road or mountain bikes at **Darlings Island Bike Shop**, ☎ 506/832-0777. Mountain bikes are $10 per hour or $30 a day. They also repair bicycles, in case yours misbehaves.

■ For mountain biking, contact **Poley Mountain**, the ski area in Sussex, ☎ 506/433-3230. A three-hour guided excursion with mountain bike, helmet, and picnic lunch can begin at the top of the ski area or explore the trails of Fundy Model Forest, for $39 a person.

To tour on your own, ask for the free map and guide to biking trails in the Fundy area from **King's County Tourism Association**, ☎ 506/432-6116, or from **Fundy Model Forest**, ☎ 506/432-2806, which publishes this and two other maps with gradient diagrams and detailed directions with mileage. One gives seven road

bike tours and the other details eight mountain bike routes, including ones to Little Salmon River and Martin Head.

Other Wheeled Excursions

For a different kind of experience on wheels, visit the **Salem & Hillsborough Railroad and Museum** in Hillsborough, ☎ 506/734-3195. One-hour rides on this vintage train are $8.50 for adults, $7.50 for seniors and $4.50 for children six-12. Weekend dinner runs of over three hours, during which passengers are served roast beef, turkey or a German buffet (in October), are $24. A three-hour fall foliage excursion into the Caledonian Highlands to see the brilliant foliage is $12/$11/$6. The train operates from mid-June to mid-October; a museum at the station, with a fine collection of rail memorabilia, is open late-June to August, 10 am-8 pm, for an admission fee of $1.50.

Another wheeled excursion awaits you in St. Martins, where you can take a carriage ride with **Maple Miniatures**, 280 West Quaco Rd., ☎ 506/833-6240. Their gleaming, wine-colored open carriage was built for them in Ontario by Mennonites. The tour route leads from their farm along an unpaved lane to a lighthouse. The road is lined with wildflowers and offers views across meadows to the sea. We counted a dozen varieties of wildflowers in bloom during our ride one August evening, the colors of each highlighted by the rays of the early evening sun. Maple Miniatures also has miniature harness horses, which pull tiny carriages that can carry an adult and child. A cart ride is $10. Children can also take a saddle ride on one of these child-sized horses. Go in April and May to see the tiny foals, or just go to admire these unusual miniatures, whose ancestors were brought to Canada to work in the mines.

■ On Water

Swimming

Bennett Lake and **Wolfe Lake** in Fundy National Park each has a free unsupervised swimming beach, and the heated saltwater pool charges a daily fee of $2 for adults, $1.50 for children, or $5 for families who are camping or staying at chalets in the park.

The shore alternates between sea cliffs and sandy beaches: St. Martins offers miles of beaches that are surprisingly uncrowded, considering how close it is to Saint John. **Brown's Beach**, at the far end of West Quaco Rd. in St. Martin's, is a short walk from the small parking area. Here you will find a long beach enclosed by red sandstone cliffs, caves and rocks carved by the tides into convoluted shapes. There's hardly ever anyone on the beach.

Diving

Scuba divers can get equipment from **The Dive Shack** in Saint John, ☎ 506/634-8265. In addition, the shop offers entry level, advanced, master and rescue diving courses and a course on the local underwater environment. Their guided tours allow you to dive The Old Sow, one of the world's largest whirlpools.

Certified divers in the area for any length of time should contact **Tidal Divers** at the Dive Shack, ☎ 506/634-8265. The group dives year-round and sponsors events that include boat and shore diving, camping trips, scallop dives, night dives, whale-watching excursions and other non-diving activities.

Canoeing, Kayaking & Sailing

Fresh Air Adventures in Alma, ☎ 800/545-0020 or 506/887-2249, e-mail FreshAir@fox.nstn.ca, provides full-day, half-day and multi-day kayaking tours in the harbour and estuary and along the Fundy coast. They include instruction for beginners, as well as interpretive information about the natural environments explored. A Day Adventure package includes a three-hour guided trip, with kayaks and equipment, instruction and lunch, for $50 per adult, $30 per child or $150 for a family of four. You can choose from three destinations: the long inlet and harbor at Point Wolfe, the bird-filled tidal reaches of Long Marsh, or the sea caves and beaches of Fundy National Park's isolated stretches of coast. Two-hour tours at $35 explore either the estuary and harbor or the bay. Full-day trips, at $90, can explore even more of the coast, and include a hot meal. Multi-day kayak trips are scheduled throughout the summer, with all camping equipment except bedding supplied. Two-day overnight trips cost $230 per person, and three-day trips cost $340. These explore the coast of the park from Alma, or on a two-night trip travel the entire distance from Alma to St. Martin's, along a pristine coastal wilderness. Three-hour safety and rescue clinics are $60 per person.

Cape Enrage Adventures on Rte. 915 between Alma and Riverside-Albert, ☎ 506/887-2273, offers day trips by kayak and canoe. A four-hour guided trip with all equipment and a light lunch is $50 per canoe or kayak (double kayaks are available). You will explore salt water creeks that fill twice each day with the rush of Fundy tides, and saltwater lakes surrounded by wilderness. The best part is that, unlike river paddling, the current changes, so you can go in both directions with the current helping you. For those who have kayaked before – or for intrepid beginners –an optional rapids provides a little excitement. Trips are May through September, by reservation, either directly with Cape Enrage Adventures or through the province's Day Adventures program.

Baymount Outdoor Adventures in Hillsborough, ☎ 506/734-2660, fax 506/734-1980, will take you on 1½-hour guided kayak excursions to Hopewell Rocks. The cost is $40 per adult, $35 for those under 18, or $120 for a

family, which includes instruction and all equipment. Trips are available from late June through August. Even if you have seen Hopewell Rocks from the beach below, you shouldn't miss this chance to paddle among them and view these amazing cliffs and caves from out at sea. The waters are placid and paddling is easy. You will get full instructions on land and in the water. Most of the kayaks are doubles, and are so stable that you can bring your camera (ask for a dry-bag to put it in). The photos you'll get of bright yellow kayaks drifting among the rocks (which become steep-sided islands) and through the arches and channels will be among the best of your trip. Trips are timed for the two hours preceding and following high tide, with two trips each day. Be sure to reserve a place, since the time schedule is a tight one. To reach Baymount, take the first road to your left after turning into the approach road for Hopewell Rocks.

Deep in the wilderness area adjacent to Fundy National Park, you can paddle on **Lake Walton**, where you can also rent canoes. The lake is a loon habitat, and in the morning or evening moose are often seen along the shore. Walton Lake is on Creek Rd. in Shepody, near Sussex, ☎ 506/432-6687.

Eastern Outdoors in Brunswick Square, ☎ 506/634-1530 or 800/565-2925, offers canoe and kayak rentals in Saint John. They also provide instruction and lead guided tours.

You can also explore the marshes and birding areas of Kennebecasis Bay. Just north of there, **River Marsh Tours** rents canoes and kayaks for $30 a half-day or $45 a full day, ☎ 506/832-1990.

River Valley Adventures in Quispamis (☎ 888/871-4244 or 506/849-8361) offers kayak rentals, instructions, and packages which can include hiking. A three-hour guided kayak tour with lunch is $50 ($35 for children), and is also offered as a Day Adventure.

Harbor, Bay & River Tours

Two-hour cruises of the bay or the river begin at 1 and 7 pm daily in the summer with **Retreat Outfitters and Charters** in Saint John, ☎ 506/636-0130, fax 506/757-8062. The cost of either is $30 ($15 per child and $60 for a family of four), and you'll travel on board a custom-built New Brunswick cape-islander. The up-river cruise goes to Kennebecasis Island.

Nature and historical cruises on the Saint John River and Grand Bay to the old riverboat landing are offered by **NorthEast Yacht Charters**, ☎ 506/652-4220, fax 506/632-1698. The two-hour cruises on board the MV *Shamrock III* leave daily at 10am, mid-June through Sept. The rate is $28 adult and $12 child. They can meet you at your hotel.

Explore the marshes along the banks of the Kennebecasis River in Hampton on a trip with **River Marsh Tours**, ☎ 506/832-1990, fax 506/832-5292. The two-hour cruise includes information on the 100-plus wild-

life species that live in one of New Brunswick's largest marshes (it covers more than 5,000 acres) plus local stories and folklore, and costs $25 for adults, $10 for children. Unlike some cruises, they do not require a minimum number; if you're the only one who reserves, you get a private trip.

For a Mississippi-style riverboat cruise on the St. John, reserve a spot on **River Livin' Louisiana Style** with the Day Adventures program. For $23 ($11.50 for ages 12 and under), this three-hour cruise with full commentary and a refreshment takes passengers past Reversing Falls, "Minister's Face," and other local sights; ☎ 506/738-8484.

Rent your own houseboat to tour the lakes and bays at leisure for about $600 for two days or $1,000 for a full week from **Houseboat Vacations** in Sussex, ☎ 506/433-4801, fax 506/433-1609. Their boats sleep six and are very easy to handle.

Fishing

May and June bring speckled trout at its best, when guests at **Adair's Wilderness Lodge** (see pages 83 and 96) find them measuring 10-17 inches.

Deep-sea fishing on board a 40-foot New Brunswick-built boat, outfitted with a fly bridge and full cooking facilities, is available with **Retreat Outfitters and Charters** in Saint John, ☎ 506/636-0130, fax 506/757-8062. The cost of a full day, for any sized group is $800. The boat is fully Coast Guard certified and the crew is well trained.

To try your hand at ice fishing, a tough thing to do unless you know someone with a bob-house, take advantage of a Day Adventure package that includes a heated hut, tackle and bait, the ready-cut hole in the ice and hot chocolate, for $60 a couple. You can reserve through the Day Adventures program or directly with Retreat Outfitters and Charters (see above for contact information). Rob Wilson, who runs these adventures, says he "keeps his ear to the ground" (or maybe the ice?) to find out where the fish are at any given time, and takes the portable hut to the best locations, so your chances of success are pretty good.

FISHING PERMITS: A National Park Permit ($4.50 day, $14 season) is required for brook trout, which are in season from mid-May through mid-September. Salmon populations are quite low in the park and the inner bay rivers, so salmon fishing is not allowed here. Although you may keep five trout a day, the park encourages catch and release.

■ On Snow & Ice

Winter sports are a Canadian specialty, and the Fundy Coast has its share. Natural snowfall, while not always predictable so close to the coast, is usually abundant enough to guarantee cross-country skiing and snow-covered trails for snowmobiling. The changing tides and cold temperatures combine to create unique and ever-changing ice sculptures along the bays and estuaries. Ice on the lakes and inner bays is substantial enough to support skating and ice fishing, which you can sample on a Day Adventure (see *Fishing*, above). In St. Martins, where the changing tides leave long expanses of frozen beach, firm underfoot and free of snow, walking the beaches is a popular winter activity. These are bordered by carved and sculptured rock cliffs; be sure to check the tide schedules.

Skiing

Fundy National Park has 30 miles of trails groomed for skiers in the winter. Some of these are along the coast, others explore the inland reaches of the park. The **Fundy Loppet** (see "What's A Loppet," below) in February is a family day of cross-country skiing in a non-competitive atmosphere. The park is open for winter camping and some of the accommodations in the town of Alma stay open year-round.

> **WHAT'S A LOPPET?** Cross-country skiers who want to join in some local fun can take part in loppets hosted by local ski clubs throughout the provinces. A loppet is defined, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, by a Miramichi ski newsletter as a "gathering of over-enthusiastic skiers who wish they could race, but can't, so they begin in a bunch at a starting line and go as fast as they want, trying to beat no one but themselves so they can have a big feed when they're finished.... " We can't improve on that description, nor can we think of a better way to spend a day outdoors. Join one, and we promise you'll meet other skiers of your speed and interests along the way, whether you're 10 or 90, and whether you're the first to arrive at the finish or the last. You'll find loppets wherever there's snow, from Labrador to New Brunswick.

Skiing is always chancy to plan along the coast, because of the moderating effect of the Bay of Fundy on the winter weather. Some years cross-country skiing on the multi-purpose trail into the Big Salmon River wilderness begins in mid-November, with excellent snow-cover lasting until spring.

Other years the weather is warmer and the snow melts after each storm. But if you and the snow are both in the area at the same time, few trails provide skiers with more exhilarating views. For a guide – you definitely should not venture into this region very far alone in the winter – contact **Fundy Hiking and Nature Tours**, ☎ 800/56FUNDY or 506/833-2534. A full day's skiing with a hearty lunch will cost $40 per person, and with enough advance notice, they can usually provide you with skis and boots as well.

In Saint John you can ski through the 2,000 acres of **Rockwood Park** on Mount Pleasant Ave., north of downtown, ☎ 506/658-2883. Its trails are groomed, free and open 10 am to dusk daily.

Adair's Wilderness Lodge, in Shepody, near Sussex (☎ 506/432-6687 or www.adairswlodge.com; see page 102), has six miles of cross-country ski trails in the Big Salmon River wilderness adjacent to Fundy National Park, plus acres of woodland for snowshoeing. Ski equipment and snowshoes are included with lodging and meals in their winter packages ($218 per couple) and are also available for rent. Their winter packages, which you can book through the Day Adventures program, include two nights lodging, all meals (the food here is very good) and trail access. These rates are even lower for longer stays. The lodge, with its snug log cabins and congenial dining room is the kind of place where we pray for a blizzard, in hopes of being "snowed in" for a few days.

Shepody Country Cottage on RR#2, Albert, NB E0A 1A0, ☎ 506/882-2667, fax 506/882-2625, has nine miles of groomed cross-country trails, a skating rink and plenty of trails for snowshoeing. Winter packages with meals and two-nights lodging are about $180 per person.

Although you might not plan a week's ski vacation at **Poley Mountain**, six miles from Sussex, it's nice to have it there if you're sampling all the other winter activities the area offers. The vertical drop of 660 feet allows space for 15 trails, a quad lift and a T-bar, plus a beginner slope and half-pipe. For $30 you can sign your kids (or yourself) up for a guaranteed learn-to-ski program; for $35 you can have a 90-minute lesson, all-day ticket for the beginner lift, ski or snowboard rental and lunch, through the Day Adventure program. Special activities include Family Night on Fridays and Steak Night on Thursdays. The area is lighted for night skiing Tuesday-Saturday evenings, ☎ 506/433-POLEY, fax 506/432-1009, snow conditions 800/365-8585. For packages combining lift tickets with deluxe suites, complete with fireplaces in the sitting room, contact **Amsterdam Inn**, 143 Main St., Sussex, NB E0E 1P1, ☎ 506/432-5050 or 800/468-2828, fax 506/432-5069.

Two other places in Sussex offer ski packages that focus on nearby Poley Mountain. **Blue Bird Motel** has a two-night package with a full breakfast both days and two days of skiing for $119 per person; children under 12 are $60. It's at 52 Wheeler Rd., Four Corners, Sussex, NB E4G 2W2; ☎ 506/433-2557 or 888/583-9111, fax 506/432-6073. The **Covered Bridge**

Inn offers a two-night stay that includes a two-day pass at Poley and a dinner at Adair's Wilderness Lodge, for $130 per person.

Snowmobiling

You can rent snowmobiles at **Broadleaf Guest Ranch**, Hopewell Hill, Albert County, NB E0A 1Z0, ☎ 506/882-2349 or 800/226-5405, located on Trail #22 of the New Brunswick network. Winter package weekends at the ranch, which has a full range of winter activities, are $100 per couple, in modern log cabins with fireplaces.

Sleigh Rides

Broadleaf Guest Ranch (see above for contact information) offers sleigh rides through their woods and fields, behind a team of two or four horses. A package with a sleigh-ride to a hill-top lodge, where you have lunch and hot chocolate, is $40 a person, or take advantage of discounted family rates.

Maple Miniatures, 280 West Quaco Rd. in St. Martins, ☎ 506/833-6240, also offers sleigh rides in the winter. You can visit their miniature horses, which are table-top height and particularly gentle.

■ On Horseback

Broadleaf Guest Ranch (see contact information above) has full riding facilities year-round on a 1,500-acre cattle farm. A half-day guided ride with instruction and a light trail lunch is $46 per person, and includes riding instruction. This excursion can be reserved through the Day Adventures program. Shorter rides are $15 an hour. Two-night packages include lodging in their new log cabin, a guided woodland ride with a picnic lunch, and instruction as needed, for $160 a person. You can ride through the woodland or across the Shepody marshlands, following Acadian dikes that hold back the Fundy tides. Summer riding camps for children provide well-rounded instruction at $275 a week, including lodging and meals. See their winter packages, under snowmobiling, above.

Fully guided trail rides with instruction and refreshments are the specialty of **Sheffield Stables Trail Rides** in Petitcodiac, ☎ 506/756-1110, fax 506/756-1110. Their trails travel through woodlands and open fields; the cost of a 2½-hour ride is $40, and there is no minimum number of people required. Or you can take a one-hour ride or an overnight camp-out, leaving the stables in mid-afternoon, pitching camp, enjoying a barbecue and campfire and returning the next morning. Riding lessons and carriage rides are also offered, and excursions can be reserved through the Day Adventures program.

Outlaws Retreat Trail Rides in Dorchester offer a horseback Day Adventure as well, with a three-hour ride and instruction, plus a picnic. The

ride is $40 per person, and can be scheduled for mornings, afternoons, or evenings. ☎ 506/379-1014. Overnight campouts and other activities are also available.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

■ Natural Areas

Cape Enrage Adventures, Rte. 915 halfway between Alma and Riverside-Albert, Cape Enrage, ☎ 506/887-2273, sponsors a variety of workshops and seminars, nature tours, and overnight trips. Workshop subjects may include photography, writing, watercolor painting, the ecology of a saltmarsh, fossils or working with stained glass. Outdoor activities range from water sports such as canoeing and kayaking, to rappelling, and wilderness hikes to explore caves, underground lakes, and waterfalls. The Interpretive Centre includes a working lighthouse and fossil collection (admission is free to both). Week-long Adventure Camps for high school students feature science, fine arts or leadership training, with a full range of outdoor activities in each program, including kayaking, canoeing, caving, rappelling and hiking, for $250. Weekend programs include both adults and children; both require advance registration and include lodging in Chignecto House, the new adventure center. Off-season, contact Cape Enrage Adventures at Site 5-5, RR#1, Moncton, NB E1C 8J5, ☎ 506/856-6081.

Our favorite activity at Cape Enrage (apart from kayaking, of course) is **beachcombing**, at either of two different places. The first is before you drive uphill to the lighthouse and center, at a cove where the rocks have washed around for so long that they have become perfectly smooth. You can find multicolored stones here that are perfect spheres, or egg shapes in various sizes. The varied geology results in striped and marbled rocks; it's impossible to leave with empty pockets.

The other place is on the shore below the cliffs used for rappelling, which you can reach by a steep set of wooden stairs to the left from the parking lot at the lighthouse. You have to search longer here, but you can find slabs of stone with **fossils** in them. The trick is to find one small enough that you can carry it back up the stairs, but big enough to form a paving stone for your front walkway. (If you're leaving New Brunswick by air, be prepared for the inevitable question when you check in your luggage: "What have you got in this bag, rocks?")

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Centre (24 Chamcook Rd., St. Andrews) and the Day Adventures program offer an opportunity to see how a fish hatchery operates (and a chance to taste the results) with "Leap Into Learning," a special tour and dinner package. You will be given a three-hour tour, full access to the center's facilities and trails, as well as a 10% discount at the gift shop, and partake in a salmon barbecue. The entire day costs $29.95 for adults; $14.95 for children six-12. ☎ 506/529-1384 for reservations or visit www.fishfriends.net for information.

Fundy Model Forest combines elements of a national park, private woodlots, industrial-owned, and public lands, covering in all about one million acres. You can explore the area on trips sponsored by the forest, following a variety of themes from coastline hikes and model forest tours to evening covered bridge tours. You can create your own dried flower arrangement, build a shelf from locally harvested pine, or tour a sugar bush (this is the term used to describe a grove of maple trees from which the sap for maple syrup is extracted, as well as the physical plant for tapping, gathering, boiling, etc.). You can fish for trout or photograph coastal scenery, all while learning about the many uses of the forest. All adventures begin from the historic train station in downtown Sussex, from which you will travel by van to the location. The level of activity varies from low to strenuous hiking; day trips begin at 9 am and end in mid-afternoon, including a meal or hearty snack. Prices vary, beginning at $25 for adults and $15 for children. For a current schedule of activities, call ☎ 506/433-1845 or 433-6602.

Accessible through lands managed by Fundy Model Forest is a spectacular and uninhabited coastline and inland hills cut by a number of rivers and only a few unpaved roads. This area lies between Fundy National Park and the town of St. Martins. A town once stood at the mouth of the Quiddy River, a wide sweep of cobble with a huge barrier beach and high tidal island at its tip. Now **Martin Head** is deserted, except for campers who arrive by four-wheel drive vehicles, mountain bikes and on foot. The

road is passable to non-utility vehicles only until the final approach to the coast, where it is badly washed out. To reach Martin Head, follow signs from Sussex to Poley Mountain and the town of Waterford. From there follow signs to Adair's Wilderness Lodge, where you should stop for further directions, since signage to Martin Head is of the home-made variety, and may or may not be in place. Ask also for directions to **Quiddy Falls**, a 15-minute hike from the road, not far from Adair's.

Among the many people who have fought to keep the Fundy shore free of the trappings of civilization – including eight-foot-wide paved trails and a scenic parkway with picnic pavilions and visitors centers, all part of several plans afoot – are Ida and Larry Adair, who run **Adair's Wilderness Lodge**. Larry grew up in these woods; his grandmother was born in a house just up the road from Larry and Ida's remote home near the shore of Walton Lake. When a parcel of William Randolph Hearst's property came on the market, Larry and Ida knew if they didn't buy it and build a good wilderness lodge, opening the land to responsible public use, someone else might do something far less appealing. The result is a comfortable, accommodating lodge and cabins, a mecca for those who love the outdoors in all seasons. In the winter it is awash in snowmobiles; fishermen come in spring and fall; hikers and mountain bikers stop here in the summer. Their restaurant is open to the public. They take guests on hiking and nature tours, canoe adventures, and excursions to nearby natural attractions, including a moss-covered glacial erratic and the many waterfalls in the area. Adair's Wilderness Lodge is off (*way* off) Rte. 111, at 900 Creek Rd., Shepody, NB E4E 5R9, ☎ 506/432-6687, fax 432-9101, www.adairswlodge.com.

Curious cave-lovers or first-time spelunkers have a chance to take a three-hour tour of the caves of Hillsborough with **Baymount Outdoor Adventures Inc.**, ☎ 506/734-2660. This Day Adventure is perfect for inexperienced explorers, and includes a snack and all necessary equipment for $40 per adult ($30 under 18).

ALBERTITE

The area between Moncton and Fundy National Park has a long history of mining and stone quarrying. The mineral Albertite was discovered in Albert Mines in 1820, and the Canadian geologist Abraham Gesner invented a process for extracting kerosine from it. The streets of Boston were once lighted by kerosene from Albert. Quarries on Grindstone Island, in the Bay of Fundy off Marys Point, provided the stone to construct the Lord and Taylor building in New York City. You can see examples of the stone in the Albert County Museum (see *Sightseeing*, page 92).

KID FRIENDLY: Children ages six-12 will love the "Wild Art and Fundy" Day Adventure at the **Sunbury Shores Art and Nature Centre** (139 Water St., St. Andrews, ☎ 506/529-3386, www.sunburyshores.org). The day includes workshops and both indoor and outdoor activities that integrate nature and art through observation and collection. The day also includes a light snack and a birder's checklist to keep track of sightings on the rest of your trip (an invaluable distraction technique during long car rides). This activity is $12 per child, and is offered during July and August. The centre offers plenty of other activities as well, including afternoon children's art courses, week-end excursions, and plenty more.

The Fundy Tides at Work

Some of the most fascinating things to do and see here relate in some way to the Fundy tides, the highest in the world (as high as 50 feet), which ebb and flow twice each day. Tide-watching is an activity of its own, as is exploring the coastal phenomena this regular rush of water creates. With the tides come a daily supply of fresh food for whales and other sea life, and for the wide assortment of shorebirds and waterfowl that inhabit the tidal marshes.

Alma Beach has a tide-viewing platform with a boardwalk and a measuring pole. At Herring Cove, and elsewhere in Fundy National Park, you can explore tidal pools when the water is at its lowest point. Herring Cove has a sea cave, as do St. Martins, Hopewell Cape and several other places.

At **Reversing Falls Rapids**, under the bridge where Rte. 100 crosses the Saint John River, is a deep gorge with a rocky barrier in its bed. At low tide, with 450 miles of river emptying into the sea, the narrow gorge is filled and water rushes over the barrier heading east. As the tide rises, and the sea level exceeds that of the river, water is forced back upstream, again through the narrow passage and with all the force of ocean tides. When this happens twice a day, the rapids rushing over the barrier form a falls heading west. A viewing point above the falls has an information center, with a 20-minute film explaining the Bay of Fundy tides. Tide tables are available everywhere, so you can plan to be there at either high or low tide – or, for the full effect, at each. Watch from either side, but the best view is from Riverside Falls View Park, across the bridge.

Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park, at Hopewell Cape off Hwy. 114, ☎ 506/734-2026 or 877/734-3429, www.hopewellrocks.com, has perhaps one of the most familiar images of New Brunswick. Often called the **"flowerpot rocks"** (see the box on the next page for the story of how they

are formed), they do look like giant flowerpots standing on the beach at low tide, with their clay-colored bases topped with clusters of green spruce trees. At high tide they look like wooded islands. When the tide is low, you can walk among these four-story rock formations and explore the sea caves that help the tides continue to create more flowerpots. At high tide, you can walk the nature trails along the top that lead into marshes and beaches and view the rocks up close from platforms. An interpretive center has displays explaining the origins of the rocks and the coastal geology, along with the birds you will see on the beaches at low tide. A bird-viewing deck near the center overlooks the tidal flats, where thousands of birds stop in the summer during migrations. You can walk the trail from the interpretation center to the rocks or ride in the jitney. Park naturalists are on hand to answer questions or point out special features. The park is open mid-May to mid-June, 9-5; mid-June to mid-August, 8-8; and mid-August to the first week of October, 9-5. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children ages four-18.

HOW THE FLOWERPOT ROCKS WERE FORMED

The story of these unusual sea stacks begins with the sand, silt, mud and rocks that eroded and washed down to the shore from inland mountains eons ago. The continuing deposits created such weight that they compressed the bottom layers into solid rock. The mud and sand became sandstone and the coarse rocky and pebbly layers, cemented together with mud, turned into a sedimentary rock called conglomerate.

As the earth's crust moved and tilted, this rock layer cracked into giant blocks, and the breaks between them began to collect water. The next phase of their development began as the water froze and expanded, enlarging the cracks and further eroding them. Glaciers, streams flowing through them, and the constant beating of the waves and 50-foot tides continued to wear these spaces larger and larger, washing away loosened sediment and separating the rocks even more. Sea caves were created as the tide wore away the softer sandstone more quickly than the harder conglomerate layers above it. Caves allow the tides to wear away the connecting land and, eventually, some of the blocks became completely separate from the land around them, making it even easier for the tides to sculpt them into the round shapes you see today. The process continues, toppling old sea stacks as new ones are being formed. Geologists estimate that there is enough of the sedimentary stone left to keep forming flowerpots for another 100,000 years. So hang onto your pictures; when the last flowerpot topples, they will be valuable.

Guided tidal tours with a visit to the interpretive center are offered four times daily in July and August for $7 per person ($5 under 13). Reserva-

tions are not necessary, but times are dependent on the tides, so call the park or the Day Adventures program to plan your two-hour excursion.

> **TIP:** For an even closer look at the flowerpot rocks, consider a kayak trip at high tide with **Baymount Outdoor Adventures** (see page 75).

The **St. Martins sea caves** are easy to visit at low tide, close to the road that passes through the covered bridge to your right as you approach the lighthouse-shaped Visitors Centre at the end of Main St. You can see them from the town's little harbor, large dark areas in the red sandstone cliffs, which you can walk to across a beach. At high tide you can explore them by kayak. The attractive park in which the Visitors Centre stands is on the site of the shipworks that made St. Martins a prosperous shipbuilding center. Interpretive signs explain how the logs came down the river and were turned into ships. In the brick building beside the small dam is a fish-viewing room.

Birdwatching

The **Hampton Marsh** is one of the province's most productive wetlands, with more than 200 of its 5,000 acres under the care of Ducks Unlimited. The area is brood habitat for black ducks, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and other waterfowl, and nesting habitat for rails, bitterns and yellowthroats. Osprey and swallows forage here. You can travel through the marsh by boat with **Rivermarsh Tours**, ☎ 506/832-1990.

Grey Brook Marsh in Hillsborough has walking trails through a marshland with a wide variety of birds. Much of the marsh is included in the **Hillsborough Wetlands Park** (☎ 506/734-3733), an area of grasslands reclaimed by Acadian dikes. Gray Marsh Pond is encircled by a trail (parking and trailhead are on Golf Club Rd.) and another trail leaves the park's interpretive center, which is on Rte. 114, just south of the town cen-

ter, near the railroad station. It leads to the shore near an abandoned wharf, where there is a bird lookout. Walking about the same distance in either direction along the shore you'll come to a lagoon with good bird viewing. The salt marshes are the habitat of the Acadian sharp-tailed sparrow. Mice living in the hayfields and meadows attract hawks, while a thriving eel population makes Gray Brook a candy dish for the local Great Blue Herons. Ten species of ducks, plus blackbirds, sparrows and warblers nest here. Red-winged blackbirds frequent the cattails and you may also see tree swallows, belted kingfishers and killdeer. When the tide rushes out of the river (about 45 feet deep at high tide) it exposes acres of mudflats that attract flocks of migrating sandpipers in the early summer.

In Saint John, birders flock to **Red Head Marsh**, on Red Head Rd., 3.3 miles from Courtenay Bay Causeway, to see waterfowl and other species. Look here for piedbilled grebe, green-backed heron and least bittern. At **Irving Nature Park**, off Sand Cove Rd. in Saint John, ☎ 506/634-7135, there have been reported sightings of more than 230 bird species, including sharp-tailed sparrows and egrets. This 450-acre park has free nature tours every day at 2 pm, leaving from the information kiosk. The shoreline here varies from high and rocky to single coves, and trails (many of them wheelchair-accessible) follow much of the shore, with benches at the best birding sites. Park gates close at 8 pm. Guests at Inn on the Cove (see page 99) are about a half-mile from the entrance to this park, and have ample bird-viewing opportunities from the inn itself. To get here from the city, take Rte. 1 west to Exit 107A; go over the overpass, and through the flashing light to the top of the hill, where you'll find Sand Cove Rd. Turn right to reach the park.

Courses in birding, along with similar programs on butterflies and wildflowers are taught by **Naturescape Inc.**, ☎ 506/672-7722, not far from the entrance to Irving Park. Half-day courses begin with an indoor program on basic identification, then move to the field with an outdoor interpretive walk. Use of binoculars and field guide books are included. Naturescape also has a store with books, bird feeding supplies and optical equipment.

Although you may find loons elsewhere in the area, the best place to look is at **Wolfe Lake** in Fundy National Park. For almost certain sightings, visit **Walton Lake** near Adair's Wilderness Lodge outside of Sussex.

Serious birders should stop at **Birdwatchers Wild Bird Store** on Rte. 114 at Edgett's Landing, between Hillsborough and Hopewell Rocks, ☎ 506/734-2473. Their outdoor feeder area attracts dozens of bird species, and you can "test-drive" state-of-the-art binoculars and telescopes there. They also carry a full range of bird guides and create custom bird carvings.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: Look in the Birdwatchers Wild Bird Store for a copy of The Moncton Naturalists' Club's very useful booklet called ***Birding in the Moncton Area***, which includes birding sites as far south as Hillsborough and Mary's Point. Trail maps and bird lists tell where you are likely to find each species.

WATCHING THE SANDPIPERS

Each year, more than a million semi-palmated sandpipers migrate south through the upper Bay of Fundy, where they stop to feed and build the fat reserves they need to fly 2,500 miles nonstop to their winter grounds in Surinam, South America. Thousands upon thousands of them stop at the **Marys Point Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve**. The heaviest concentration of birds arrive at Marys Point during the first two weeks in July and stay from 10 to 20 days. Mixed flocks are common, and often include white-rumped sandpipers, least sandpipers, black-bellied plovers, semi-palmated plovers, and sanderlings. The best time to see them is at high tide, when flocks of several thousand birds search for food in the sand or swirl in great clouds overhead. A short trail from the interpretive center leads to the beach, where benches make it easy to sit and watch one of the Atlantic Flyway's greatest shows. Trained docents are on hand to answer questions and help with identification. Trails and boardwalks wind through the forests, fields, marshes, and sand beaches that make up this entire ecosystem, where you will see many other bird species as well. Marys Point is in the town of Harvey. From Riverside Albert, take Rte. 915 southeast and watch for Marys Point Rd. on the left.

Seal- & Whale-Watching

One of the more unusual seal-watching opportunities is close to St. Martins at **West Quaco**. Take Rte. 137, the West Quaco Rd., watching for the flowerpot rocks along the coast to your left, and park at the Quaco Lighthouse. Follow the trail to the top of "the hump" (the trail crosses private property, but the owners are friendly about it). You can walk along the ridge and down to the area's only sandy beach. From this point, you can watch seals ride the race, when the tide is running. Then they'll swim around and do it again, and again, "like kids on a sliding hill," as our St. Martins friend, Nancy Sears, describes it.

Whale-watching cruises operate from Saint John with **Retreat Outfitters and Charters**, ☎ 506/636-0130, fax 506/757-8062. More than 20

species of whales have been sighted on these trips, including finback, minke, humpback and right.

Learn all about whales in the **New Brunswick Museum** at Market Square in Saint John, ☎ 506/643-2349. The museum has a particular interest in these mammals, since the Bay of Fundy has more varieties regularly seen than any other waters in the world. You'll learn why the bay attracts so many of these, and find out where and when to see them.

Other Wildlife

Cherry Brook Zoo in Saint John's Rockwood Park, ☎ 506/634-1440, has more than 100 animals, many of them endangered species. They are especially well-known for their breeding program with the brown lemur, golden lion tamarins and black wildebeest, and are credited with helping those species to survive. Along with seeing the animals – native and exotic – you can learn about the breeding and conservation programs. Saint John Transit buses go there from June through September, and on weekends year-round. Admission is $6 for adults, $5 seniors, $4.50 ages 13-17 and $2.50 ages three-12. It's open 10 am-4 pm daily, all year.

NIGHTLIFE AT CHERRY BROOK: The adventurous will love the "Zoo Night Safari," a 2½-hour nighttime tour of the zoo. Kids get ID badges and certificates, and everyone gets to see the ins and outs of how a zoo is run. Offered as a Day Adventure, the safari costs $12 for adults and $5 for children. Be sure to bring warm clothes, comfortable shoes, and a flashlight.

Valley Farmlands

Covered bridges are plentiful in the area around Sussex, between Moncton and Saint John, and they fit perfectly into its rural, rolling landscape and small farming villages with their white churches. Pick up a free a map from the Tourist Centre in Sussex; it gives a little of the history of each bridge, as well as showing its location. The most famous is the **Oldfield Bridge**, shown on a Canadian quarter-dollar coin. Antique car buffs should come on the last weekend in September for the Antique Car Covered Bridge Tour.

Sussex is in the center of farming country, so it's a fitting home for the **Agricultural Museum**, ☎ 506/433-6799. The museum shows how the farms developed, as well as tools and machinery used and skills that every farm family had to know. The museum, in Princess Louise Park, is open daily from mid-June to mid-September. Admission is $2 for adults, $1 for children, $5 for a family. Picnic grounds are available in the park, where a farmers' market is held on Friday mornings.

The summer's highlight for local farms is the **Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair**, held each year in early August in Petitcodiac, ☎ 506/756-8149. Also in Petitcodiac at the same time is the **New Brunswick Lumberjack Competition**, where you can watch old-time woodsmen's skills demonstrated, ☎ 506/453-2440. On Wednesdays you can visit the weekly **cattle auction** in Sussex, the dairy capital of the Maritimes. You are reminded of this fact by the 12-foot cow "Daisy" beside the road when you enter town on Rte. 1 from Saint John.

Armadale Farm in Sussex (☎ 506/433-6031) makes fine cheeses, such as Dutch Gouda, Cheddar, and Swiss, as well as butter. You can buy cheese at the spotless Dutch farm on weekdays, 6 am to 6 pm, or find it at the Sussex Farmers' Market on Friday mornings.

In Bloomfield, southwest of Sussex, you can tour **Ox-Bow Dairy Farm**, ☎ 506/832-4450. On a 1½-hour tour of this working dairy and beef farm you can feed the calves, meet a goat, milk a cow, and eat homemade strawberry shortcake with the farm's own cream. Tours are $12 per person or $25 for an entire family. If you simply can't leave this idyllic 150-year-old farm with its panoramic view, you can spend the night – or the week – in the farm's B&B.

The view from **Hilltop Flower Farm**, 220 Fairview Ave. in Hillsborough (☎ 506/734-3267), is lovely, especially with their brilliant gardens as a foreground. Pick your own bouquet ($6) here and the talented owner will arrange it into a work of art for you. The shop shows a tasteful selection of Canadian-made crafts, stained glass and dried flowers.

Jumping from agriculture to aquaculture, Albert is home to **IXOYE Aquaculture, Inc.** on Rte. 915, three miles from the Cape Enrage Rd. This experimental farm cultivates American and European oysters, bay and giant scallops, and blue mussels, ☎ 506/882-2573, e-mail gebuhbaa@nbed.nb.ca.

Sightseeing

Barbour's General Store in Market Square next to the Tourist Information Centre, Saint John, ☎ 506/658-2939, is a restored general store with everything from salt cod to herbs to cure whatever ails you. Spats and corset stays are reminders of long-ago fashions. The fully stocked shelves are a museum and nothing is for sale, but they'll

give you a packet of a local favorite food, dulse. This seaweed is gathered on the shore and dried to make a healthy snack, but most people find it's an acquired taste. The store is open daily from May through October; admission is free.

Loyalist House, 120 Union St., Saint John, ☎ 506/652-3590, is the city's oldest unchanged building, dating from 1817. The architecture and furnishings are typical of the homes of Loyalists who built the city after fleeing from the American Revolution. Guided tours recount the history and importance of this home to the five generations that lived here. Open daily, June-September.

Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre (ABEC), 20 Hazen Ave., Saint John, ☎ 506/633-4870, fax 506/648-4742, has changing exhibitions covering art, craft, photography, science, and history, as well as live performances and workshops. Sciencescape is a hands-on learning center for children. Ask at the tourist office for a current schedule. Admission to the galleries is free and the museum is open June through August, 10 am to 5 pm daily; Tuesday-Sunday afternoons the rest of the year.

Carleton Martello Tower, near Reversing Falls on Lancaster Ave. in Saint John (☎ 506/648-4011), is a rare remaining New World example of a round stone defensive tower common in the British Isles in the early 1800s. Inside, exhibits show the tower's history from its construction to its use as a command post for World War II harbor defenses. A video explores its World War II role. Admission is $2.50 for adults, $2 for seniors and $1.50 for children; the tower is open daily, 9 am to 5 pm, June through October 15.

The **Jewish Museum** at 29 Wellington Row, Saint John, ☎ 506/633-1833, traces the long history of Saint John's small Jewish community, founded in 1858. It provides a fascinating look at the rich traditions of this ethnic community and its faith. Admission is free. The museum is open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, from May through September, as well as on Sunday from 1-4 pm during July and August.

New Brunswick Museum at Market Square, ☎ 506/643-2300, is in brand-new spacious quarters in the heart of town. The centerpiece is a 45-foot right whale, but that's only the beginning. New Brunswick's multifaceted history comes to life in displays that illustrate life in a logging camp, the age of sail or the railroad era using the actual tools and artifacts in creative ways. Enlarged photos set the stage for lumbering operations, and a giant keel shows the construction details of a sailing ship. Throughout the exhibits, the time-traveler is brought into each by the background sounds – the hiss of steam, the rumble of machinery, the whistle of a

steamboat, or the steady whack-whack-whack of an ax. Other details draw the visitor into the time: you enter the machine room by punching your card in a time-clock and can sit in the seats of a railway club car.

> **DID YOU KNOW? Wallace Turnbull** (1870-1954), a New Brunswick native, invented the variable pitch propeller, which revolutionized air travel by allowing greater flight control and fuel efficiency. But he never flew in an airplane.

After considering the works of humans on the first floor, move up to the second to contemplate the works of nature. Here you'll learn about whales (with a map to show the best whale-watching sites), fossils (the floor is a layer-by-layer fossil chart) and the stunning variety of bird life in the province. The bird display is set up as a long veranda with porch chairs. Still the collections continue, with an excellent display of decorative arts, furniture, historic costumes, Maliseet and Micmac quill and basketwork, and a stunning collection of ceramics ranging from the 12th century BC to modern New Brunswick potters. A discovery gallery for children replicates the port of Saint John, with sturdy wooden replicas of boats, trucks and loaders to explore. The museum is open weekdays, 9 am to 9 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Adult admission is $5.50, children $3, seniors $4.50, families $12. On Wednesday evenings it's free.

The **Albert County Museum**, Rte. 114 at Hopewell Cape, ☎ 506/724-2003, is part of a complex of historic buildings that includes a former jail from 1845, with the original cellblock. You'll hear the grisly tale of Tom Collins, tried three times for the same murder before he was hanged here. The highlight of the group, which also includes a barn filled with early agricultural equipment and displays, is the elegant 1904 courthouse, rectangular on the outside, but whose courtroom rises to an octagonal ceiling. In the museum collections, which fill the jailhouse, look especially for the beautifully matched log cabin design quilt. A full wheelwright shop is in the barn. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, June to mid-September, 9:30-5:30; admission is $2 for adults, $1 for children and seniors, under age 12 free.

Those interested in historic needlework or quilts should stop at **Steeves House** on Mill St. in Hillsborough, ☎ 506/734-3102. The Grapevine Quilt in the master bedroom is recognized as one of Canada's finest examples of appliqued quilts. It is the original design of Maria Steeves, and was made

about 1834 from fabrics she dyed using local plants. The well-restored home, completed in 1812, has another bedroom furnished with locally made false-grained cottage pieces. It is open in the summer from 9 am to 5 pm; admission is $2 for adults, $1 for children.

The nearby **Old Bank Museum**, at the crossroads in Riverside-Albert (☎ 506/882-2015), now stands at its third location. The three-story bank has had an exciting history; not only has it been moved twice, but in 1984 it was the scene of the province's biggest bank robbery. The upstairs was designed as a home for the bank manager, and is restored to its early 20th-century furnishings. The former banking counter now serves as the local tourist information office.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

Studio on the Marsh, on Marys Point Rd., off Rte. 915 in Riverside-Albert (☎ 506/882-2917) is the studio and gallery of wildlife artist Lars Larsen, 1988 winner of the Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Art Award.

Cornucopia, 2816 Main St., Hillsborough (☎ 506/734-1118), is a distinguished house filled with a choice selection of handwork and art from New Brunswick and the Maritimes. Pottery ranges from contemporary art to raku and other media include woodturning, herbal soaps, hand-painted silk and elegant nature collages.

Hilltop Flower Farm, 220 Fairview Ave. in Hillsborough (☎ 506/734-3267), carries Canadian-made crafts, stained glass and dried flowers.

Kindred Spirits Stained Glass is almost across the street, in a little cottage at 2831 Main (☎ 506/734-2342). Diana Boudreau's colors are her hallmark; we especially like her works with bird motifs.

In mid-May, the crafts studios and shops in the area, several of which are not open at other times, join in an **Open House Weekend**, with special displays, demonstrations and refreshments. For exact dates, call one of the above shops.

■ Festivals & Events

Two festivals bring even more life to Saint John's already active streets, which all seem to flow down to the busy Market Square, on the waterfront. **Loyalist Days**, held the third week of July, sees residents in colonial costumes to re-enact the Loyalists' landing of 1784. The week is filled with historical programs, concerts, parades, and pageants.

In mid-August Saint John becomes a showplace for Canadian culture during the **Festival by the Sea**. Each of Canada's many cultures is represented through its performing arts, and you may see Nova Scotia

Highland dancers, Acadian fiddling or Micmac drumming on the outdoor stage at Market Square.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Near Sussex & Fundy National Park

The gracious mansion that has been lovingly transformed into **The Ship's Lantern Inn** was built in 1786 by a prosperous local shipbuilder. Antiques from the period and original architectural details furnish and decorate the inn, but it never feels like a museum. Quite the opposite: the wing chairs in the parlor fairly invite guests to sink into one with a book from the inn's library. Rooms are large, well decorated and have private baths and whirlpool tubs, as well as thoughtful gifts to welcome arriving guests. Hosts are glad to arrange golf, kayaking, canoeing or other adventures and activities for guests. Although the area is filled with outdoor adventures, we have to admit that our favorite adventure in Hillsborough is in the inn's dining room ($$). One of the best restaurants in Atlantic Canada, it consistently delights us with dishes created from fresh local ingredients. The wild mushroom soup – meaty slices of woodland mushrooms in a thick, creamy base – is one of the best soups we've tasted; it took every ounce of our childhood social training to keep us from licking our bowls. Roasted garlic soup is a close second. Salmon is brought to the table on the cedar plank on which it was cooked. Scallops are sautéed until warm and buttery inside, then served in a white wine sauce with crumbled bacon. Trout is stuffed with almonds and herbs, and a mélange of lobster, shrimp and scallops is gently blended in a sauce flavored with Scotch, then enveloped in a grilled crêpe. Lighter

entrées include a stir-fry of vegetables, including New Brunswick fiddleheads, with or without chicken, beef or seafood and lightly sweetened with maple syrup. Finish with maple pie or peaches stuffed with a walnut-rum mixture, and custom-blended Down East coffees. Unlike many inns, this one serves lunch; breakfast omelets are filled with wild mushrooms or a blend of lobster, shrimp and scallops. Or choose eggs Benedict, steak and eggs or French toast. 7 Pleasant St., in the middle of Hillsborough, NB E4H 3A6; ☎ 506/734-3221, fax 506/734-2972, www.ships-lantern.com. ($$)

Aubergine & Spa is a new inn and restaurant, with a real spa. In other words, it's not just a resort with hot tubs and an exercise room that calls itself a spa. The fine old home sits on pleasant grounds; guest rooms are furnished with antique beds and have Victorian footed tubs in private baths. But there are modern amenities, too, including in-room phones and modem hook-ups. All-natural cotton sheets and towels, Proterra toiletries, Olivier soaps and an atmosphere of relaxing calm fit the spa setting. We like the Iris Room, with two double beds and a sitting alcove, the inn's most expensive at $95 with breakfast. The fully licensed spa offers packages from half-day to week-long programs; individual services include facials, massage (at $50 Canadian for 75 minutes, it's irresistible after a day's kayaking at Fundy), therapeutic baths, body wraps, sauna and multi-jet showers. The dining room, like the spa, is open to the public, serving meals in both formal and informal settings, with café tables on the terrace (tables and chairs are made by a local iron-worker). The menu features Indonesian and Thai specialties, with a few Italian choices. Several vegetarian dishes are available. 5 Maple St., Riverside-Albert, NB E0A 2R0; ☎ 506/882-1800, toll-free 877/873-1800, fax 506/882-1801, www.aubergine-spa.com. ($$)

Florentine Manor is an 1860 stately home only 20 minutes from the national park. Two-night packages with candlelight dinners, picnic lunch, and bicycles are $370. A full hot breakfast, with choice of entrée, is served to guests at 8 each morning. Dinners (which are memorable) are available for guests by reservation; the complete meal is $21.95. The home is rich in Victorian architectural detail and antiques. On our last visit, the room we stayed in had a complete matching suite of cottage Victorian, in perfect condition with original false graining and handpainted designs. All rooms have quilts handmade by some of New Brunswick's best-known fabric artists. RR#2, Riverside-Albert, NB E0A 1A0, ☎ 506/882-2271 or 800/665-2271. ($$)

Fundy Park Chalets, open mid-May through September, are inside the park near the Alma entrance. Each has a fully equipped kitchenette and a bedroom/living room with two double beds. Linens are provided. A large playground is across the road, as is a restaurant; a golf course and a heated saltwater pool are nearby. Credit cards are not accepted, but they will take your personal check. Fundy National Park, PO Box 72, Alma, NB E0A 1B0, ☎ 506/887-2808. ($$)

Captain's Inn B&B is a 10-room inn at the entrance to the national park. Main St., Alma, NB E0A 1B0, ☎ 506/887-2017, fax 506/887-2074. ($$)

Rose Arbor B&B is in an 1860 home with Victorian décor and marble fireplaces. Save that bottle of wine for another night, however, since no alcohol is allowed on the premises. 244 Main St., Hillsborough, NB E0A 1X0, ☎ 506/734-2644. ($-$$)

Peck Colonial B&B and Tea Room is a 1790s home set in wide lawns with gardens. Its three guest rooms are furnished with a blend of antiques and modern pieces. Breakfasts feature home-baked breads, and the tearoom serves both lunch and dinner to the public. Rte. 114, Hopewell Hill, NB E0A 1Z0, between Moncton and Fundy National Park, ☎ 506/882-2114. ($)

Deluxe suites with fireplaces in the sitting rooms are found at **Amsterdam Inn**. They offer senior discounts and special ski packages with nearby Poley Mountain. 143 Main St., Sussex, NB E0E 1P1, ☎ 506/432-5050 or 800/468-2828, fax 506/432-5069. ($$-$$$)

Adair's Wilderness Lodge, off Rte. 111 in Sussex, offers lodging in cabins, one of which was built by William Randolph Hearst as a fishing camp. Adair's is on the shores of an idyllic lake where loons nest and moose are an almost certain sight. The newly built log cabins are just the right combination of rustic and luxurious, with wood-burning stoves for chilly evenings, modern baths and woodsy décor, sleeping four to six people. Dorm-style cabins are popular with hikers and snowmobilers. Owners Larry and Ida are so concerned with keeping a sense of the wilderness here that they have buried all the electrical wires to the cabins. For details on the lodge's nature tours, hiking and other activities, see pages 69, 79, and 83. Package rates of $175 a day include all meals, transportation, and activities such as canoeing, hiking and tours to natural points of interest in the area. The restaurant ($-$$), in a new log building that looks as though it grew there, serves three meals daily, from giant breakfasts to a dinner menu featuring rainbow trout, Arctic char, roast beef, ham and a children's menu. If you're lucky, the strawberry crisp will be in season. 900 Creek Rd., Shepody, NB E4E 5R9, ☎ 506/432-6687, fax 506/432-9101. ($$)

ACCESSIBILITY NOTE: One of Adair's new log cabins, called The Bear's Lair, is fully wheelchair-accessible.

Apohaqui Inn is in a stately home in a small riverside village. Nicely restored, its guest rooms feature canopy beds. Dinner is available to guests by reservation. 7 Foster Ave., Apohaqui, NB E0G 1A0, ☎ 506/433-4149. ($)

Fundy National Park Hostel is set in a group of small, rustic cabins overlooking the Bay of Fundy in one of the park's loveliest areas. It has a kitchen and baggage storage for hikers. General Delivery, Alma, NB E0A 1B0, ☎ 506/887-2216. ($)

Broadway Café serves a varied menu ranging from hearty soups, quiches and sandwiches on whole grain bread to a complete dinner menu on weekends, featuring curried scallops and steak in a creamy peppercorn brandy sauce. In the summer, don't leave without sampling their berry shortcake. Open Monday-Thursday, 9 am-3 pm; Friday, 9 am-9 pm; Saturday, 10 am-9 pm. 73 Broad St. (opposite the railway station and information center), Sussex, ☎ 506/433-5414. ($-$$)

Marshview Family Restaurant, opposite the interpretive center for the Hillsborough Wetlands Park, overlooks the marsh from its indoor and outdoor tables. The menu is pretty standard, with fish & chips, baked ham, fried clams, turkey, fried chicken and a variety of sandwiches, plus a children's menu. Main St. (Rte. 114), in Hillsborough; ☎ 506/734-2643. ($-$$)

A refreshing addition to the Alma area is **Two Wheels Café**, a coffee house and café where you can get good coffee (including espresso and cappuccino), tea, fresh baked goods (strawberry tarts are divine), sandwiches and quality fruit juices. The café is the center for two-wheeled activity in the area; its owners are avid two-wheel travelers, as you might have guessed from the café's name, and the café has become the center for trail and road information. 8651 Main St. in Alma, ☎ 506/887-1140.

Harbour View Grocery and Restaurant serves three home-style meals daily, from 7:30 am. Main St., Alma, ☎ 506/887-2450. ($)

Collins Lobster, Ltd. in Alma sells local lobster live or cooked, along with other shellfish and fish. ☎ 506/887-2054.

Kelly's Bake Shop is well-known even to non-locals as the home of the sticky bun. Along with these sweets you'll find fresh-baked bread, pies and picnic lunches. We have a friend from California who is described by his wife as "a connoisseur of nutritionally disastrous baked goods," and he rates the local attractions thus: "Alma's 50-foot tides are nice, the park is okay, the sticky buns are fabulous." Main St., Alma, ☎ 506/887-2460.

The Old Shepody Mill Restaurant near Riverside-Albert serves dishes that lean heavily toward middle European, with a hearty Black Forest Plate (similar to a plowman's plate), emu-burgers, or bratwurst and potato salad for lunch, and a variety of schnitzels and emu filet mignon at dinner. The view over the marshlands to the sea is best from the upstairs dining room; in good weather you can have lunch on the terrace. They are open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday, for lunch Wednesday through Sunday, and only on weekends in the winter. Rte. 114, Shepody, NB, ☎ 506/882-2211. ($$)

Seawinds, near the golf course in Fundy National Park, is a family restaurant specializing in seafood. ☎ 506/887-2808. ($-$$)

The Keepers' Lunchroom at Cape Enrage Adventures serves a superb haddock chowder, sandwiches and soups in an original lighthouse-keeper's quarters. They are open from 10 am to 7 pm, late May until mid-October. Off Rte. 915 about halfway between Alma and Riverside-Albert, ☎ 506/887-2273. ($)

Gasthof Old Bavarian is set on a working farm. This flower-decked German chalet is just over the Oldfield covered bridge. Long wooden tables are set with red-checkered tablecloths, surrounded by chairs of carved wood. From the minute you walk in and smell the heavenly aromas from the kitchen, you know this is the real thing. You can order Wiener schnitzel, Jaegerschnitzel, veal bratwurst, weisswurst, spaetzle, and all the classic German tortes, plus strudels. The Gasthof is open Friday-Sunday only, from noon until midnight. RR#2, Sussex, NB E0E 1P0, ☎ 506/433-4735. ($-$$)

■ Saint John & the Bays

Manawagonish Bed & Breakfast is a private home in a nice residential neighborhood, open all year. Rte. 100, Manawagonish Rd., Saint John, NB E2M 3X2, ☎ 506/572-5843. ($-$$)

Delta Brunswick Hotel, a full-service chain hotel, is centrally located in Brunswick Square, a large shopping mall. It has an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool bath, saunas, exercise room, children's playroom and outdoor playground. 39 King St., Saint John, NB E2L 4W3, ☎ 506/648-1981 or 800/877-1133 in the US, ☎ 800/268-1133 in Canada, fax 506/658-0914. ($$-$$$)

The **Saint John Hilton** offers some good weekend rates and packages, especially in the summer. Children under 18 stay free and those under 12 also eat free in the hotel's restaurants. The only waterside hotel in the city, its location couldn't be better. For views of the ships coming and going, ask for a harbor-view room; all are decorated in furniture made of

New Brunswick pine. Facilities include a small indoor swimming pool, a Jacuzzi under a large skylight, saunas, exercise room, and seven non-smoking floors. One Market Square, Saint John, NB E2L 4Z6, ☎ 506/693-8484 or 800/445-8667 in the US, ☎ 800/561-8282 in Canada, fax 506/657-6610. ($-$$)

The San Martello Dining Room at the Dufferin Inn is the domain of a European-trained chef with a passion for fresh local ingredients. Native seafoods and produce from nearby farms are presented in classic European dishes as well as those of the chef's own creation. Desserts are a triumph. Enjoy a glass of wine in the beautiful paneled library of this distinguished old home as you read the menu. Six guest rooms ($$) are cozy, with down comforters on the beds. You must reserve in advance. 357 Dufferin Row, Saint John, NB E2M 2J7, ☎ 506/635-5968, fax 506/674-2396. ($$)

Inn on the Cove overlooks the water and Partridge Island, but is minutes from downtown. Five guest rooms are very nicely decorated; one has its own Jacuzzi by a window overlooking the bay. The dining room, open to guests and the public, is run by the host of a popular television cooking show, which is filmed here. Dining reservations should be made at least a day in advance. 1371 Sand Cove Rd. (less than a mile from Irving Nature Park), PO Box 3113 (Station B), Saint John, NB E2M 4X7, ☎ 506/672-7799, fax 506/635-5455. ($$-$$$)

Red Rose Mansion has winter packages with two nights lodging, breakfasts, dinners (one at a highly rated restaurant), wine, and a sleigh ride, for $425 a couple. 112 Mount Pleasant Ave. North, Saint John, NB E2K 3V1, ☎ 506/649-0913 or 888/711-5151, fax 506/693-3233. ($$-$$$)

Mahogany Manor has only three guest rooms; its small size, combined with the magnetic personality of its host, makes it seem like you're a house-guest in a fine restored Victorian home. Guests can look out over the garden as they enjoy a full breakfast with home-baked muffins or breads. The inn is close to the center of town. 220 Germain St., Saint John, NB E2L 2G4, ☎ 506/636-8000. ($$)

The Weslan Inn is a nicely restored Victorian sea captain's home with fine woodwork and large, bright guest rooms. (The bathrooms are larger than some hotel rooms we've stayed in.) An intimate dining room with a fireplace serves well-prepared local seafood (try the scallops) and other dishes, by reservation. Entrée prices ($19-22) include salad, dessert and tea or coffee. A winter package with dinner, champagne and other amenities (including a double whirlpool bath and fireplace) runs about $200 for a couple. 45 Main St., St. Martins, NB E0G 2Z0, ☎ 506/833-2351, fax 506/833-1911. ($$)

The Quaco Inn is a delightful Victorian mansion overlooking the water, with well-decorated rooms and good-humored hosts. A package for $370 a couple includes two-nights' lodging, breakfasts and dinners, wine, a picnic lunch, a carriage ride, the use of bicycles, plus a hot tub under the stars and a beach bonfire. 16 Beech St., St. Martins, NB E0G 2Z0, ☎ 506/833-4772, fax 506/833-2531. ($$)

LITTLE EXTRAS: Either the Quaco Inn or the Weslan Inn can arrange for you to have a carriage ride along a country lane to a lighthouse for $30.

Shadow Lawn has nicely decorated, very comfortable rooms that retain the interesting architectural features of the house (we liked the big brick chimney passing through ours). It's only eight miles northeast of Saint John in historic Rothesay, whose streets are filled with equally elegant Victorian mansions, most built as summer homes. To us, one of the rare joys of travel is, after a long day's driving, to walk into Shadow Lawn's Room 1, with a long shaft of late afternoon sunlight falling across the giant bed, and the cushy sofa spreading broadly before the fireplace. Beautiful as it is, however, the dining room ($$-$$$) lures us back to the first floor before long. The Courtenay Bay Platter is an appetizer plate that provides a tantalizing sampler of local seafoods. We always seem to follow it or the creamy seafood chowder with the chef's latest take on salmon or lamb. During our last visit, the salmon was smoked in black tea and served on a bed of mango salsa, and the lamb rack was encrusted in pecans before roasting and served with new local potatoes. It's wise to make dinner reservations when you reserve your room. 3180 Rothesay Rd. (PO Box 41), Rothesay, NB E2E 5A3, ☎ 506/847-7539 or 800/561-1466, fax 506/849-9238. ($$-$$$)

DID YOU KNOW? Much as we hate to spread gossip, we can't resist mentioning that Shadow Lawn mansion's original owner was rumored to be the illegitimate son of King Edward VII.

Grannan's Seafood Restaurant and Oyster Bar is on the lively waterfront where the action is, so reservations are important in the evening. It serves seafood in prodigious quantities, including generous lobster rolls and a deluxe fish & chips platter. Open Monday-Saturday, 11:30 am-midnight; Sunday, 11:30 am-10 pm. The Captain's Platter would feed a platoon. Lighter lunch-time dishes include sandwiches, salads and, in summer, barbecue served on the patio. Market Square, Saint John, ☎ 506/634-1555. ($-$$$)

At **Billy's Seafood Company Fish Market and Oyster Bar** lunch entrées ($) are available all day, and are substantial enough for a light dinner. The lobster roll is brimming with meaty chunks and all the fish is impeccably fresh and perfectly cooked. Open Monday-Thursday, 11 am-10 pm; Friday and Saturday, 11 am-11 pm; Sunday, 11 am-9 pm. 49-51 Charlotte St., Saint John, ☎ 506/672-3474. ($$-$$$)

Beatty & the Beastro serves exceptional soups, salads, and sandwiches at lunch. Choices are inspired by various cuisines, from an Indian curry of the day to schnitzel with spaetzle. Trout may be studded with shrimp and capers and chicken breast might be stuffed with feta cheese, spinach and served with a garlicky cream sauce. The dessert of choice here is a generous slice of one of their pies, made fresh daily. 60 Charlotte St. at King Square, Saint John, ☎ 506/652-3888. ($$)

Incredible Edibles Café, along with its café function, is a place to stop for a mid-afternoon or late evening espresso and a wedge of cheesecake (the source of their fame). Edibles serves lunch and dinner, Monday-Saturday, 11 am-10:30 pm. Substantial salads, pasta, pizza, and pita with hot or cold fillings are on the lunch menu. At night look for European favorites and fresh seafood dishes. 42 Princess St., Saint John, ☎ 506/633-7554. ($$)

Our choice for lunch in Saint John is grazing through the historic **City Market** at King's Square on Charlotte St. Begin with chowder at **Lord's Lobster**, choose bread at **Vern's Bakery**, and fill it with cold cuts and cheese from **Jeremiah's** (or get a lobster roll). For a whopper salad, go to **Whale of a Café** and pick the ingredients – half-portions are probably enough – and pair it with souvlaki from **Yogel's**. Take the results to the park or waterfront, or eat it in the market's solarium. The market is open 7:30 am-6 pm, Monday-Thursday; until 7 pm on Friday and 5 pm on Saturday.

A unique opportunity awaits at **Mount Hope Farm**. For $60 (including tax), you can enjoy an old-fashioned mussel feast, with 25 pounds of steamed mussels (enough for four to six people). If you don't have four people you can buy a single four-pound serving for $12. Butter is extra. You need to make reservations in advance for this or for their lobster dinners, which are $30 and include butter, plus mussels, cole slaw, potato salad, dinner rolls, dessert and tea or coffee. Meals are served at picnic tables on the lawn of an historic home, which you can tour before your meal. 690 Nerepsis Rd., Westfield, ☎ 506/757-8608.

■ Camping

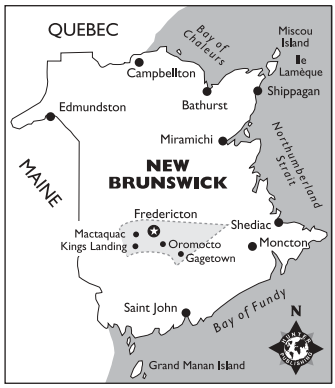
Four campgrounds and several wilderness sites along the trails of **Fundy National Park** provide more than 600 campsites, from full hook-ups ($16-$18) to unserviced tent sites ($9-$11). Reservations are accepted at some of these (☎ 800/213-PARK) and are required at all the wilderness sites (☎ 506/887-6000). But a lot of spaces are on a first-come-first-served basis, so it is a good idea to get to the park early in the day. Chignecto and Headquarters campgrounds have the most services and amenities, while Point Wolfe and Wolfe Lake are quieter and more primitive, usually favored by tenters and those who like camping the "old-fashioned" way. Neither of the latter has trailer sites. Wilderness sites cost $2.50 a night per person, plus the park entry fee. Some of these have fire pits, but the park encourages the use of backpacking stoves at all of them. These sites are in remote areas reached only by hiking trails.

Rockwood Park has camping facilities for tents ($14) and, in a separate area, trailers ($17). Hilltop tent sites have a splendid view over the bay, and the park provides all sorts of activities, from hiking and swimming to bumper-boats and water-golf. Mount Pleasant Ave., Saint John, ☎ 506/658-2883.

Lone Pine Park Campground and Cabins, 12 miles east of Sussex, has a heated swimming pool, hiking trails and sites for both tents and RVs. RR#1, Penobsquis, NB E0E 1L0, ☎ 506/432-4007.

Those who believe that it's not camping unless you sleep under canvas (count us among them) will appreciate the beautiful tents-only campground at **Adair's Wilderness Lodge**. Natural sites are scattered through a spruce grove, at the head of a pond where trout jump. The campground is set a bit apart from the cabins, but close enough to hop over to the dining room for a hearty breakfast or dinner. Rates are $10 a night. Those who enjoy winter camping are welcome, too (and can enjoy the hot showers in the laundry cabin). 900 Creek Rd., Shepody, NB E4E 5R9, ☎ 506/432-6687, fax 506/432-9109, www.adairswlodge.com.

The Lower River Valley



Between Saint John and Fredericton lies a region broken by long bays and the meandering path of the lower St. John (the river is officially spelled with the abbreviated "Saint"). Once you leave its narrows at the Reversing Falls in the city, you can't cross by bridge until you reach Oromocto, almost to Fredericton. But a series of free ferries get you across the river at various points, in a much more interesting and scenic way than simply driving over a bridge.

The lower bays close to Saint John are covered under the Fundy Shore chapter, and if you have toured that region, the landscapes along the rest of the river will look familiar: patchwork fields, apple orchards, farmsteads and small villages with their white churches and clusters of homes.

Against the wide expanses of the river lies the peaceful old riverside settlement of **Gagetown** and the provincial capital of **Fredericton**, a lively, stately city with a decidedly English air.

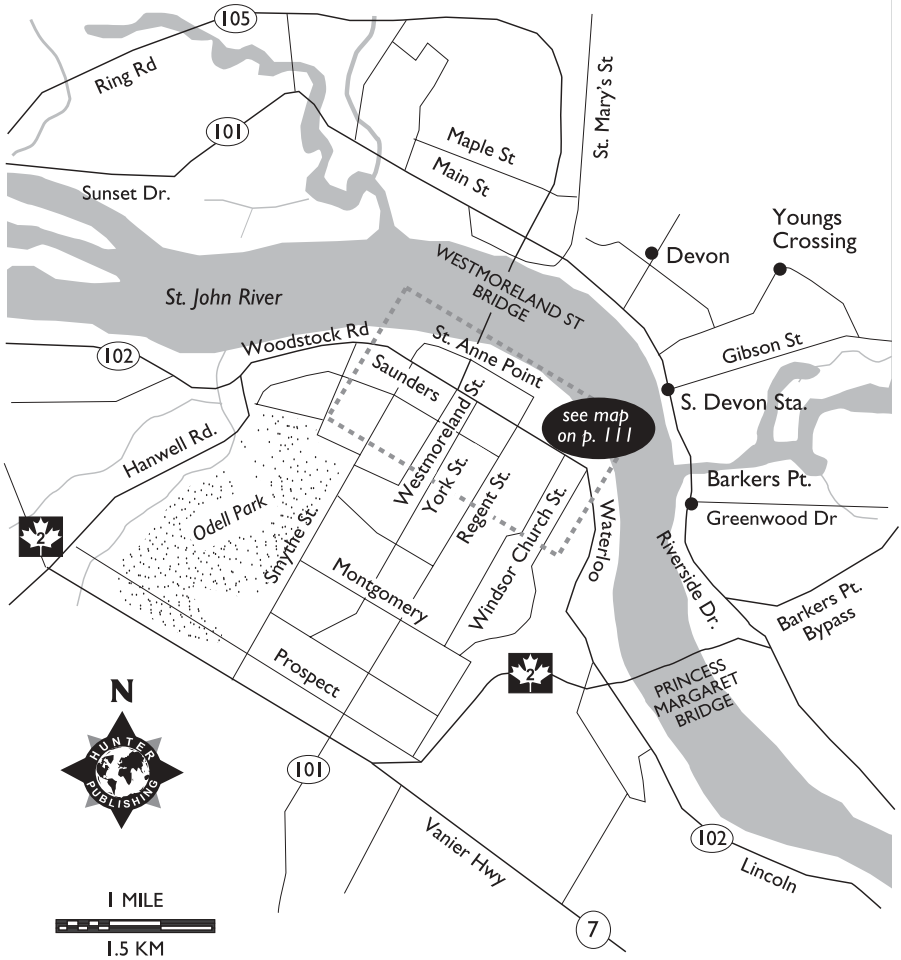
Geography & History

Three hundred years ago the river was a highly prized fishing ground, its banks scattered with small settlements. In the late 1600s the French built a fort here at what is now Fredericton, which soon became a town. The British took it over in the mid-1700s, but, as in Saint John, it was the Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution who shaped the city.

Kingston, on Rte. 845 north of Saint John, was one of the first areas in New Brunswick settled by these Loyalists, as you can see from its Anglican Church and Rectory, which are fine examples of late 1700s architecture. Three bodies of water surround the Kingston Peninsula – Long Reach (part of the Saint John River), its tributary the Kennebecasis, and Grand Bay.

Farther upstream, **Gagetown** was an important stop for the river steamers that were once the lifeblood of transportation here; to its north lies the huge Grand Lake, as well as several smaller lakes, which combine with the river and bays to give the whole area the feeling of floating on water.

Fredericton



Getting Around

To reach Fredericton directly from the Quoddy shore, follow **Rte. 3** or **Rte. 127** to Rte. 3, which meets TransCanada-2 west of Fredericton. From Saint John, you have more choices, one of them fast and boring (**Rte. 7**), one slow and scenic as it follows the winding west

bank of the wide St. John River (**Rte. 102**), and a third that is even slower, but a great deal more fun. The latter crosses a series of long bays and narrow rolling peninsulas by free ferries, then crosses the main river and continues up its western bank through Gagetown to Fredericton. To take this route, follow Rte. 1 east from Saint John to Rothesay, then to Gondola Point via Rte. 100 to Rte. 119, following signs to the ferry. Cross Kennebecasis Bay and take Rte. 845 east to Kingston, then Rte. 850 to another ferry, this one across Belleisle Bay. Rte. 124 takes you to the third ferry, and from Evandale you can follow Rte. 102 north to Gagetown. The ferries shuttle back and forth all day and it is rare to wait as much as 10 minutes for one. We look at these ferry trips as free boat tours.

If you are looking for an alternate route between Saint John and Fredericton, a bit more direct than the river or ferry route, but more interesting than the monotony of Rte. 7, take **Rte. 101** to the west at Welsford, and follow it through Fredericton Junction to Fredericton. It's a rolling, forested route, with little traffic, that passes a few farming communities and looks down on blue lakes with wooded shores.

Information Sources

For maps and details on opening hours and events, write or go to the **City Hall Visitor Information Centre**, 397 Queen St., at York St., near the river, (PO Box 130), Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y7, ☎ 506/452-9508. Ask for the excellent *Fredericton Visitor Guide*, which has a good self-guided walking tour, and also for a free tourist parking pass that allows out-of-province visitors to park free at meters and in town lots. The office is open daily, 8 am to 8 pm, from mid-May through August; 8 am to 4:30 pm in September; and Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm, the rest of the year.

On the highway approach to the city is another **Visitor Information Centre**, TransCanada-2 near Exit 289 (Hanwell Rd), ☎ 506/458-8331 or 506/458-8332. It's open daily, 8 am to 8 pm, in July and August; 9 am to 5 pm from mid-May through June and September through mid-October.

For advance information, you can also contact **Tourism New Brunswick**, PO Box 12345, Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6, ☎ 800/561-0123, www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca.

Adventures

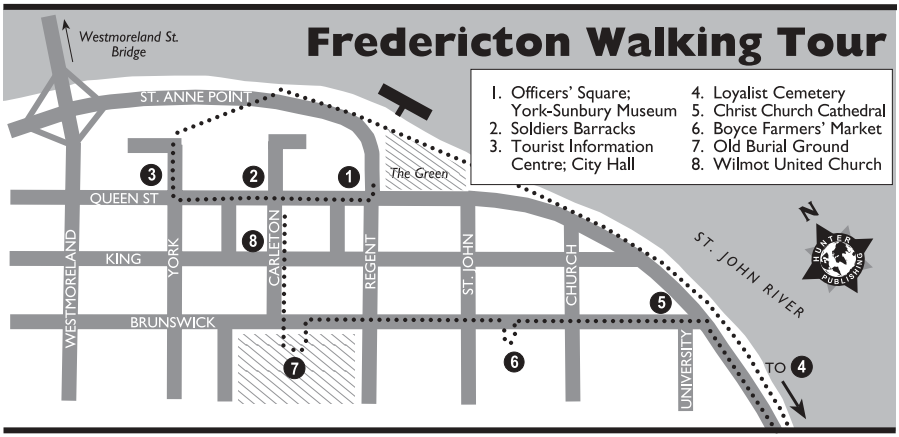
■ On Foot

Walking Tours

Fredericton's streets are filled with historic buildings and sites, and the best way to see them is on a walking tour. Begin at **Officers' Square**, a park on Queen St. at Regent. It was once the city's military parade ground, and is bordered by quarters built in the early 1830s for officers of the British garrison.

Walk along Queen St., past the Soldiers Barracks, to the old **City Hall** (1876) at Phoenix Square, and see the Council Chamber's wool tapestries tracing the history of Fredericton. These were created by two local artists.

From there, head toward the river to walk along the **Riverfront Walkway**, which you can join anywhere downtown, as it follows the river for about three miles, from the Sheraton Hotel alongside the downtown streets. Follow the Walkway past the elegant **Waterloo Row** houses – a series of fine riverside mansions – to the remains of an old **Loyalist Cemetery**, with stones dating from 1783. The cemetery is just past Morell Park; follow the road beside the ball field. Return along Waterloo Row to the **Anglican Christ Church Cathedral** at the intersection of Brunswick and Church streets (see *Sightseeing*). Walk along Brunswick St. past the Old York County Gaol to **The Old Burial Ground** at Regent St., in use from 1787 to 1878. Wander through it, looking for the graves of Loyalists families, and British soldiers. Turn up Carleton St., where you will see the distinctive white **Wilmot United Church** on the corner of King. Built in 1852, it's the only one remaining of the city's several large wooden churches that were built in the last century. The interior is decorated in hand-carved native woods. Guided tours are given on weekdays; ☎ 506/458-1066.



The *Fredericton Visitor Guide* includes a self-guided walking tour, or you can sign up for guided historical walking tours by costumed members of the theatrical group **Calithumpians**. Tours leave from the City Hall, Monday-Friday at 10 am or 2, 4 and 7 pm and on Saturday and Sunday at 10 am, 4 pm and 7 pm. Their lantern-lit "Haunted Hikes" through historic neighborhoods and graveyards are given on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 9:15. ☎ 506/457-1975. The cost is $12, or $8 for children under 12. Reservations are required.

A "Heritage Architecture Walk" is also offered by Fredericton Tourism (☎ 506/460-2129) and the Calithumpians, and meets at the Military Compound Casemates. The tour explores the St. Anne's Point Heritage Preservation Area. Led by local experts, the discussion is lively and very focused on the architecture of the colonial capital. The tour is two hours, costs $5 ($3 for children), and may be reserved through the Day Adventures Learning Quest program.

The arboretum of native trees is reached via two miles of walking trails through **Odell Park**, Rookwood Ace., ☎ 506/452-9500. It is free, and open daily 7 am to 10 pm. Interpretive signs describe the trees. In all, the park has 10 miles of walking trails, and the adjacent Fredericton Botanic Garden, on Prospect St. West, has nature trails.

Several miles of self-guided nature walks and hiking trails, including a one-mile wheelchair-accessible trail around Beaver Pond, ramble through **Mactaquac Provincial Park** on Rte. 105, 15 miles west of Fredericton, ☎ 506/363-3011. The one-mile Jones Field Nature Trail and the Alex Creek Trail both explore a creek and an old farm site. Admission is $3.50 per car. Open daily, 8 am to dusk, from mid-May through mid-October.

To see the fine 19th-century architecture that lines the streets of historic Gagetown with a knowledgeable guide, reserve a space on a **Village of Gagetown Walking Tour**, ☎ 506/488-2903.

■ On Wheels

The abandoned **CN railway line** extends from Rookwood Ave. for about six miles west; the multi-purpose path is good for cycling. It runs a distance along the banks of the river as far as McIntosh Brook. Since the trail is also used by walkers, they have the right-of-way.

BIKE RENTALS IN FREDERICTON

- **Devon Park Trustworthy Hardware**, bike rental and servicing, ☎ 506/452-9998.
- **Key Cycle**, bicycle service and rental, ☎ 506/458-8985.
- **Radical Edge** bike rental and service, ☎ 506/459-3478.

You can rent bikes in the park to explore the roads around **Mactaquac Provincial Park** on Rte. 105, 15 miles west of Fredericton, ☎ 506/363-3011. It is open mid-May through mid-October, daily 8 am to dusk, and admission is $3.50 per car.

■ On Water

The 50-mile-long headpond for the **Mactaquac Power Development Dam** is now part of Mactaquac Provincial Park, on Rte. 105, 15 miles west of Fredericton, ☎ 506/363-3011. It is open mid-May through mid-October, daily 8 am to dusk. Admission is $3.50 per car. Along with swimming and other activities along the shore, the pond is open for fishing, sailing, rowing, and waterskiing.

Canoeing & Kayaking

In Fredericton you can rent kayaks or canoes to explore the river at **Small Craft Aquatic Centre**, Woodstock Rd., ☎ 506/460-2260. They conduct guided kayak tours and offer lessons in kayak and canoe handling and in rowing. The center also offers a 2½-hour guided tour of the St. John, which includes water and safety instruction. The trip is $25 ($15 children), and can be reserved through the Day Adventures program. You can also rent kayaks from **Nashwaak Boat & Canoe**, ☎ 506/450-2628.

The gentle waters around Gagetown are perfect for canoes and kayaks, which are the best way to view some of the wide variety of birdlife that inhabits the river marshes. Inn guests are welcome to use the kayaks and canoes at the **Steamers Stop Inn** in Gagetown, ☎ 506/488-2903, fax 506/488-1116 (see page 118 for information about the inn).

Lakeside Park, on Young's Cove Rd. in Waterborough, rents canoes for use on Grand Lake.

River Tours

One-hour cruises leave the Regent St. Wharf daily at 2, 4, 6 and 8 pm in the summer on board the ***Carleton II***, a 25-passenger excursion boat. The cost is $5 for adults, $3 for children, ☎ 506/454-2628.

FERRIES

Ferries provide a refreshing break in a day of driving, like taking your car along on a mini-cruise (and best of all, these are free). The following ferries all take only five to 15 minutes per crossing.

■ **Gagetown Ferry**, Rte. 102 between Lower Jemseg and Gagetown, year-round.

■ **Upper Gagetown Ferry**, Between Gagetown on Rte. 102 and TransCanada-2 at Lower Sheffield, May through November.

■ **Hampstead Ferry**, Rte. 102 between Hampstead and Wickham (Rte. 705), May through November.

■ **Evandale Ferry**, between Evandale on Rte. 102 and Kars on Rte. 124, all year.

■ **Kennebecasis Island Ferry**, off Rte. 845 on the Kingston Peninsula to Kennebecasis Island, May through November

■ **Summerville Ferry**, between Sandy Point in Saint John and Summerville, just off Rte. 845 on the Kingston Peninsula, April through December.

■ **Belleisle Ferry**, between Earle's Wharf on Rte. 124 and Long Point on Rte. 850, all year.

■ On Snow

In the winter, **Mactaquac Provincial Park** maintains cross-country ski trails, snowmobile and snowshoe trails, along with hills for tobogganing, and two lighted skating ponds. It's a popular place for ice fishing and you can take sleigh rides through the snow-covered forest and along the frozen pond, ☎ 506/363-3011 for reservations (Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm).

Skiing

Seven miles of trails through the woods of Fredericton's **Odell Park**, entered from the end of Rookwood St., are groomed for cross-country skiing, as is the trail along the riverbank beside Sainte Anne Point Drive.

Mactaquac Provincial Park's cross-country ski trails include a half-mile beginner trail, a 1.5-mile intermediate trail and a three-mile advanced trail, all leaving from the lodge, ☎ 506/363-3011.

Downhill skiing is nearby at **Crabbe Mountain**; details are in the Upper River Valley section, page 124. Lodging packages are available with the **Mactaquac Inn**, ☎ 506/363-5111 or 800/561-5111, in Mactaquac Provincial Park. For $160, a family of four can stay a night at the inn, have dinner, use the resort's indoor pool, and receive a discount on lift tickets at Crabbe Mountain.

Snowmobiling

The **Fredericton Snowmobile Club**, ☎ 506/452-0539, maintains about 40 miles of trails. **Mactaquac Provincial Park** has 15 miles of marked groomed trails, fueling and food service. You can get a map of these from the park's lodge, ☎ 506/363-3011.

Sledding & Sleigh Rides

Dunbar Valley Adventures, in Durham Bridge off Rte. 8 north of Fredericton, ☎ 506/450-9612, offers guided dogsledding trips, with two hours on the trail, full instruction, and refreshments, for $60 a person. This same two-hour guided dogsledding trip, with instructions and refreshments, is part of a package with the **Sheraton Inn** in Fredericton, ☎ 506/457-7000 or 800/325-3535, fax 506/457-4000. The excursion, a room and breakfast is $239 for a couple.

Sleigh rides can also be arranged with **Milton Price** in New Maryland (☎ 506/459-5780) or **Newman & Creaser Horse & Carriage** (☎ 506/454-1554). Ask about meals or refreshments, such as hot chocolate, that may be offered after the ride.

Sleigh rides are part of winter packages at **Pioneer Lodge and Log Cabins**, Cumberland Bay, NB E0E 1H0, ☎ 506/339-6458. They also furnish guests with toboggans for use on their hill.

■ On Horseback

A two-hour guided trail ride through the woods, including basic instruction for beginning riders, is available at **Royal Road Riding Stables** on Royal Rd. in Fredericton, ☎ 506/452-0040. The cost per person is $38. The stables also offers riding lessons and a summer riding camp.

Silverado Trail Rides in Fredericton offers riding instruction and a two-hour guided tour on horseback as a Day Adventure for $40 per person. Call ☎ 506/472-3550 for reservations, or for information on riding lessons or the shorter trail rides also offered here.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

In Fredericton, the changing of the guard is re-enacted at **Officers Square** on Queen St., Tuesday through Saturday during July and August, at 11 am and 7 pm. The **Calithumpians** specialize in outdoor theatricals with historic themes, which they perform free at Officers' Square, Monday-Friday at 12:30 pm and Saturday-Sunday at 2 pm; ☎ 506/452-9616. Maritime music concerts, also free, are held nearby, at the Lighthouse, and on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 pm, free band concerts at Officers' Square may feature marching, military or bagpipe bands.

KID FRIENDLY: The little soldier in your family will have a great time at the Military Compound in Fredericton, where kids get to dress as a guard and learn all about the lives of 17th-century soldiers. Programs begin at 2 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 3 pm on Saturday. This Day Adventure also includes a guided tour of the guard house and soldier's barracks, interactive drill instruction with a parade of mini-soldiers, refreshments, and a certificate of participation to bring home, for $12 per person or $40 for a family of four. Reserve at ☎ 506/460-2129 or 888/888-4768, or visit www.city.fredericton.nb.ca for more information.

Fredericton is a city known for its encouragement of the arts, and near City Hall you can visit the **New Brunswick College of Craft and Design**, Canada's only college-level school for craftspeople and designers. The work of some of its pewtersmiths is in the Smithsonian; work of its potters, weavers and metalsmiths can be seen in frequent exhibits. Across from the Cathedral at 103 Church St., the **New Brunswick Crafts Council** sells high-quality weaving, pottery, needle arts, glassware, wood inlay and other work, ☎ 506/450-8989. On Thursday evenings during June, July, and August, various First Nations artisans offer two-hour workshops in Maliseet crafts at the **Military Compound Casemates** in Fredericton. Each week, a different craft is featured, such as drum-making, beadwork, basketweaving, and leatherwork. The cost is $5 per adult, $3 per child, and the activity can be reserved through Fredericton Tourism (☎ 506/460-2129) or the Day Adventures Learning Quests program.

KID FRIENDLY: Art Works, a day of creativity at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery (703 Queen St., Fredericton), is designed for children ages five-13. The day includes an art experience (and they get to take home the end result), a gallery tour and souvenir, and snacks. Be sure the kids are dressed to get messy. Offered through the Day Adventures program, the cost is $10. The gallery also offers a hands-on discovery gallery, walk-in tours, lectures, and films. ☎ 506/458-2032 for information, or visit www.beaverbrookartgallery.org to learn more.

On Saturday from 7 am to 1 pm the **Boyce Farmers' Market**, on George St. between Regent and St. John, has crafts along with fresh fruits and vegetables, farm cheeses, honey, sausages, preserves and baked goods.

The **Fredericton Botanic Garden**, begun in 1992, is well underway, and currently features a wildflower garden and walking trails. You can get a well-illustrated guide to the Woodland Fern Trail by writing the Botanic Garden Association at Box 57, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2. Enter the garden from Prospect St., next to the ball park.

Odell Park Arboretum has an outstanding collection of well-labeled native New Brunswick trees, including some speciments over four centuries old. An additional seven miles of walking trails through the woods are kept groomed in the winter for cross-country skiers. The park's entrance is at the end of Rookwood St. Odell Park is a good place to find songbirds, including the scarlet tanager.

Perhaps the most unusual birding experience in Fredericton is the annual communal roosting of **chimney swifts** in late May and early June. Migrating flocks congregate in the air above chimneys, all flying in the same direction, and circle like a huge doughnut, then begin to drop in a swirl into the chimney. The best place to see this is at the chimney of the Incutech Building at the University of New Brunswick, which has been a roosting site for many years. The building is on MacKay Rd.; Follow York St. from Queen St., turning left on Kings College St. When it ends at the campus, follow the bird-symbol signs around the circular road, which becomes MacKay, until you reach the brick Incutech Building.

All ages enjoy learning about the environment in **The Treehouse**, a kid-friendly center where children can climb the spiral staircase inside a "tree" to see a raccoon and other creatures that live there. The environmental center is also home (somewhat incongruously) to a model of a traveling tent circus, of the kind that visited Fredericton a century ago. The center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30; Saturday 10-1. 124 St. John St.; ☎ 506/452-1339.

The **Fish Culture Station** at Mactaquac Provincial Park, gives guided tours of the fish hatchery in July and August or self-guided tours year-round, where you may see live salmon being sorted for breeding and learn how they migrate into the rivers to spawn, ☎ 506/363-3021. At the Generating Station, across the dam, you can take a hard-hat-and-goggles tour to view the turbines at work. Tours are free, 9 am to 4 pm, mid-May to Labor Day, ☎ 506/363-3071.

Plan to spend a whole day touring **King's Landing Historical Settlement**, Exit 259 from TransCanada-2, west of Fredericton, ☎ 506/363-5090 (506/363-5805 for recorded information), www.kingslanding.nb.ca. When plans for the Mactaquac Dam made it clear that miles and miles of riverside land would be flooded, and with it entire historic communities and many outstanding examples of the region's architectural, cultural and social heritage, the province decided to collect the best examples and group them into a living outdoor museum. Spanning the history of the riverside settlements from 1790 to 1910, the village includes working farms, grist and saw mills, village and country homes, a church and a Sash and

Door Factory with 1909 machinery operated by a vintage motor. If you are planning on making a day of it, consider the Day Adventures package "An Adventure in Time," which includes museum admission, a performance at the Ingraham Barn theater, and dinner, selected from the "Loyalist Bill of Fare" at The Kings Head Inn, for $48.50 ($26.25 ages 12 and under). You may also contact the museum by e-mail at reserve@kingslanding.nb.ca.

Beginning in mid-June and continuing through early October, Kings Landing offers Day Adventure Learning Quests that cover several areas of 19th-century life. For $50, which includes museum admission, an artisan or craftsperson will teach a skill during a 2½- to three-hour workshop. All activities include a snack and beverage, and must be reserved by 3 pm the previous day. Classes include open hearth cooking, quilting, rug hooking and braiding, and a complete account of the process of turning newly sheared wool into a finished product, called "Sheep to Shawl."

The **Hagerman House** has furniture by a major Victorian cabinetmaker; the **Ingraham House** has fine New Brunswick pieces and a beautiful hedged garden; and the **Jones House** has interesting stenciled floors. Homes, farms and shops (including cooper and blacksmith shops) are all in use, by costumed interpreters who explain what they are doing as they work. You may find straw hats being braided, a bucket in progress, or a rug in the making. Things are not crowded together, so expect to do a lot of walking or take the wagon that makes the rounds of the main area. It's well worth going to the far end, beyond the schoolhouse, where you will see the modest cottage of a "recent" immigrant family.

Children may become "Visiting Cousins," living for five days as children lived 100 years ago, dressed in period costumes, attending school, playing period games, learning home and village arts, and eating meals with their "families." Tuition for five days, including lodging and meals is $280, and applications must be completed by mid-March for the following summer.

Workshops for adults concentrate on a specific subject, such as furniture stripping, open-hearth cooking, wool processing, tatting, chair caning or herbs. These last from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and cost $50. A one- or two-day wood-turning session is $175 a day, and includes a wooden bowl which each participant will make.

The museum is open daily, 10 am to 5 pm, June through mid-October. Admission is $10 adults, $9 seniors, $7.75 students over age 16, $6 ages six-16, and $28 for an entire family.

Sightseeing

Fredericton history is well covered at the **Historical Society Museum**, Officers Square, ☎ 506/455-6041. From May through

early September, it's open Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, noon to 6 pm. In July and August it stays open until 9 pm on Monday and Friday. Hours are shorter off-season. Admission is $1 for adults, 50¢ seniors or children, $2.50 family. Under no circumstances should you miss seeing the 42-pound frog, once the pet of a local innkeeper.

A benevolent native son built and endowed the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery**, 703 Queen St., ☎ 506/458-8545. Although it is best known for Salvador Dali's monumental "Santiago El Grande," it has other fine collections of paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable, Turner, and Canadian artists, plus period rooms from the 1500s to the 1800s. In July and August, it's open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. From September through June, it's open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Admission is $3 adult, $2 senior, $1 child.

The first new cathedral founded on British soil since 1066 is **Christ Church Cathedral**, Brunswick St., ☎ 506/450-8500. The Cathedral offers visitors free tours. It's open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 8 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. The building is an outstanding New World example of decorated Gothic architecture.

Waterford crystal chandeliers, portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte, the Speaker's Chair and a spiral staircase at the end of the main hallway are the highlights in the **Legislative Assembly Building**, Queen St., ☎ 506/453-2527. Free tours are conducted every half-hour on weekdays.

In Gagetown you'll learn about its colonial times and its later importance as a stop for river steamers, at **Queen's County Tilley House Museum**, ☎ 506/488-2966. It is open daily, 10 am to 5 pm, from mid-June through mid-September; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm, from mid-September through mid-October. Admission is $1 adults, 25¢ children. The 1836 Queens County Courthouse is open the same hours, and free.

Look for gravestones of Loyalists and their slaves in the churchyard at **St. John's Anglican Church**, next to the Tilley House museum in Gagetown. Like Fredericton, Gagetown is known for its craftsmen and artists, whose work you can see in local studios and galleries. Look especially for the tartans and handwoven clothing in the 1761 trading post, now **Loomscrofters**, ☎ 506/488-2400.

In Minto, west of Grand Lake, is a museum that preserves a unique bit of 20th-century history, **The New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum**, Municipal Building, Rte. 10, Minto, ☎ 506/327-3573. Although there were 26 World War II internment camps throughout Canada, this is the only one in the Atlantic provinces. The camp was erected here for its remote location and for the lumber that provided useful work for the internees. In the museum are about 400 artifacts and a scale model of the camp. Open Monday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm (later some days); Sunday, noon to 6 pm. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

The **Museum Store at Kings Landing,** ☎ 506/363-4999, is filled with fine heritage crafts, including handmade quilts, pottery, wooden items, had woven textiles and handmade soaps and candles, most by New Brunswick artisans. One of the best selections of books on the province and its history, crafts and cooking are here, too.

At The Kings Head Inn, also in Kings Landing, is the **Gift Shoppe**, ☎ 506/363-4999, with reproductions of period decorative items and locally produced boutique foods, including marinated fiddleheads and stone-ground flours.

Loomscrofters, ☎ 506/488-2400, located in an 18th-century trading post in the center of Gagetown, creates fine woven textiles, especially tartans; Several other crafts studios are scattered about the riverside town.

At Harvey, southwest of Fredericton, is **Briggs & Little Woolen Mills Ltd.**, makers of fine pure wool yarns for knitting and weaving. Their yarns come in more than 50 colors and in several weights. They are open all year Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. 3500 Rte. 635, Harvey E6K 1J8, ☎ 506/366-5438, fax 366-3034, 800/561-YARN, www.briggsandlittle.com, e-mail woolyarn@nb.sympatico.ca.

■ Festivals & Events

July 1 is **Canada Day**, and the celebration in New Brunswick's capital city centers on the green strip of riverbank around the Lighthouse, where a day-long program includes music, games, magicians and a fireworks display.

Highland Games is a Scottish festival held in late July on the grounds of Old Government House, on Woodstock Rd., in Fredericton; ☎ 506/452-9244 or 888/368-4444, www.nbhighlandgames.com.

In early September, Fredericton hosts the annual **Fredericton Festival of Fine Crafts**, with exhibits in Officers Square; ☎ 506/450-8989.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Fredericton Area

In the center of downtown, with rooms overlooking the river, is the **Lord Beaverbrook Hotel**. Guests can enjoy the indoor swimming pool, large Jacuzzi and sauna. All rooms have computer hookups. **The Terrace** ($-$$) is a reliably good place to eat, serving lamb chops, salmon and pasta dishes. The **Governor's Room** ($$$-$$$$), open for dinner only, has more trendy nouvelle fare in a more posh setting. 659 Queen St. (PO Box 545), Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6, ☎ 506/455-3371 or 800/561-7666, fax 506/455-1441. ($$-$$$)

At the far end of the downtown area in a gleaming modern building you'll find the **Sheraton Fredericton Hotel**. The lobby opens onto a terrace and swimming pool overlooking the river; many rooms have river views, all have ironing boards, coffee makers, and voice-mail. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools, Jacuzzi and sauna, as you'd expect. **Bruno's** ($-$$$) offers outdoor riverside dining in the summer and a smart atmosphere indoors. They feature an innovative and international menu from which we've sampled salmon infused with ginger, shrimp cooked with sesame and tangerine, and a whopping chocolate-and-berries dessert called raspberry bash. The Friday evening seafood buffet is grand in scope and dishes are nicely prepared. 225 Woodstock Rd., Fredericton, NB E3B 2H8, ☎ 506/457-7000 or 800/325-3535, fax 506/457-4000. ($-$$$)

For a comfortable B&B in an elegant old home, stay at **Carriage House Inn**. It's furnished with antiques and has a wide porch for watching the world go by on the tree-shaded street of fine Victorian homes. 230 Univer-

sity Ave., Fredericton, NB E3B 4H7, ☎ 506/452-9924 or 800/267-6068, fax 506/458-0799. ($$)

Kilburn House is a B&B near the center of town. The shared bath has a whirlpool tub. 80 Northumberland St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3H8, ☎ 506/455-7078. ($-$$)

For a location near TransCanada-2, try the attractively landscaped **City Motel**. Rooms are nicely furnished with matched New Brunswick-made pieces. A seafood restaurant called **The Lobster Hut** ($-$$) is in the motel. The food is reliably good, the atmosphere congenial and it has been awarded one of the highest government ratings for cleanliness of any restaurant in the province. 1216 Regent St., Fredericton, NB E3B 3Z4, ☎ 506/450-9900, fax 506/452-1915. ($)

Town and Country Motel has several rooms with equipped kitchenettes. All rooms have air conditioning, although its airy riverside location (terraces face the shore) makes it mostly unnecessary. The hospitable owners are on-premises. 967 Woodstock Rd. (RR#3), Fredericton, NB E3B 4X4, ☎ 506/454-4223. ($-$$)

Downtown and dormitory-style is the **York House Youth Hostel**. It's open only in July and August and has inexpensive meals as well. 193 York St., Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6, ☎ 506/454-1233. ($)

The **University of New Brunswick** has dormitory rooms available in the summer. PO Box 4400, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, ☎ 506/453-4891. ($)

Chicadee Lodge B&B is a log-built home with a bed and breakfast on a riverbank, with well-kept grounds. Guests are welcome to explore the river in the lodge's canoes. Prince William, NB E0H 1S0, ☎ 506/363-2759 (May through November) or 506/363-2288 (December through April). ($-$$)

Café Regency serves seafood, pasta and lighter dishes, as well as breakfast, in a comfortable café atmosphere. The pastry is made in-house. 610 Queen St., ☎ 506/457-5534. ($-$$)

Schade's serves German and central European dishes in generous portions. Look here for hearty favorites such as Hungarian goulash, and for delicate veal schnitzel. 536 Queen St., Fredericton, ☎ 506/450-3340. ($-$$)

The Diplomat is a combination of standard family dining and Chinese; they serve a popular Chinese buffet at lunch and dinner. They are open 24 hours a day, and bake their pastries in-house. 253 Woodstock Rd., Fredericton, ☎ 506/454-2400. ($-$$)

King's Head Inn in King's Landing Historical Settlement serves dishes appropriate to their historical setting: corn chowder, chicken pie and traditional favorites. Hours are the same as the Settlement's. TransCanada-2, Exit 259, Prince William, ☎ 506/363-5090. ($$)

Special evening meals at **The King's Head Inn** are served only three times a year, offering a series of dinners that harken back to the days of the Loyalists. The Spring Dinner, offered three times in mid-June, is fashioned on the theme of a Loyalist feast and accompanied by live 19th-century music. Dinner choices have included stuffed leg of lamb, pheasant, and peppercorn roast pork. In October's harvest, dinner is preceded by a wagon ride through the village to the inn, for a meal of roast venison, brandied baked rabbit, pheasant, or crab-stuffed trout. These are offered the last three weekends of the month and begin at 6:30 pm. During the holiday season, dinners are at 6:30 pm, beginning in mid-November and ending two days before Christmas; they are also served at noon on two days in December. The fare is roast turkey, prime rib with Yorkshire pudding or roast goose. The setting, of course, is Christmas, and the inn is decorated with garlands, boughs, pomanders, and ribbons in a Victorian theme. The cost of the dinners is in the $24-$26 range. 20 King's Landing Service Rd., King's Landing Historical Settlement, Prince William, ☎ 506/363-4999, fax 363-4989, www.kingslanding.nb.ca; e-mail reserve@kingslanding.nb.ca.

■ Lower River & Grand Lake

Steamers Stop Inn has the easy peaceful ambience of its days as a stop for upper class riverboat passengers. Today it's a welcoming, nicely run inn, with antiques, river views, and a dock for guests, with kayaks and canoes for exploring the river. The dining room ($$) serves old-fashioned dishes (like gingerbread) and stylish modern entrées, mainly seafood, by reservation only. Front St. (PO Box 155), Village of Gagetown, NB E0G 1V0, ☎ 506/488-2903, fax 506/488-1116. ($$)

Tucked into a woodland setting on the northern shores of Grand Lake is **Pioneer Lodge and Log Cabins**. With a big fieldstone fireplace in the lodge, candlelight dining, and homemade quilts in the log cabins, it's especially cozy for a winter getaway. Cumberland Bay, NB E0E 1H0, ☎ 506/339-6458. ($-$$)

Count on home-baked goodies at **Keswick Kitchen**. They're open all day, all year, and their scones are made in heaven. Rte. 104 in Burtts Corner, just north of Fredericton, ☎ 506/363-5637.

■ Camping

Mactaquac Provincial Park has 300 campsites for tents and trailers, some alongside the 18-hole golf course. Rte. 105, 15 miles west of Fredericton on Rte. 105, off TransCanada-2, ☎ 506/363-3011.

Grand Lake Park is large and busy, with a beach and other recreational facilities, including a boat launch and walking trails. Tent sites are $17,

those with hookups are $19. Princess Park, Grand Lake, NB ☎ 506/385-2919.

On the opposite side of Grand Lake is **Lakeside Camping and Recreation Park**. Wooded tent sites and pull-through sites with hookups are set back from the beach. Canoes and bicycles are available for rent. Young's Cove Rd., Waterborough, NB ☎ 506/488-2321.

The Upper River Valley

For most of its course, the St. John River runs through gentle farmlands, in a region known for its potatoes and other crops. River settlements began with the early fishermen and traders, who were busy here as far back as the 1700s. Before that, the river was an important route for native peoples.

The Upper River Valley is one of the least touristed regions of New Brunswick, and visited mainly by those traveling from Québec. It's a pleasant, scenic and pastoral area, with abundant opportunities for outdoor adventures.

Geography & History

The St. John River actually begins in Maine, and forms the border between Canada and the United States from several miles west of Saint-François-de-Madawaska to Grand Falls. From there it continues to flow south, parallel with the international boundary – or roughly so, since the border runs in a strait line and the river curves and winds its way – until it swings west at Meductic. For most of its course, the river is wide and mild mannered but, at Grand Falls, it drops suddenly over jagged rocks and into a steep-sided gorge. Before the building of the hydro-electric dam above the falls, it must have been a magnificent sight; even with the dam above it, constricting its flow, it is impressive.

East of the river is mostly wilderness, cut by few roads. One of these leads to the town of Plaster Rock, following the Tobique River just north of Perth-Andover, where it joins the St. John River. The road climbs up through dense forests, above one of the province's legendary fishing rivers.

Speaking of legends, the northern part of this region is alive with them. You will hear, wherever you go, references to the Republic of Madawaska, mythical as a republic, but a very real and beautiful land encompassing

parts of two provinces and the state of Maine. Its origins, like that of the Indian Stream Republic in Northern New Hampshire, were in a long-unsettled border dispute. The area between the headwaters of two rivers was claimed by Québec, New Brunswick and Maine at various times, which so vexed its residents that they dreamed of its becoming an independent land of its own. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842 finally set the boundary, and the dream of independence melted into the mythic republic. Today it has a coat of arms and a council of "knights" which include the mayor of Edmundston and other leading people of the area.

Getting Around

From Fredericton, head west on **TransCanada-2**, toward Grand Falls, along the western bank of the river, which the highway crosses for a brief distance at Hartland. When the river becomes the international boundary between Maine and Canada at Grand Falls, you will cross it again. At **Perth-Andover**, you can leave the river to make a loop through the highlands to Plaster Rock and New Denmark, then rejoining TransCanada-2 at the river in Grand Falls.

Rte. 105 leaves Fredericton on the north side of the river, following the opposite bank from TransCanada-2. This is a slower route, only slightly more scenic as it follows closer to river level. You can alternate routes by crossing the many bridges along the way. You will see longer vistas from the higher TransCanada-2. The distance from Fredericton to the Québec border is 180 miles.

Information Sources

For tourist information, contact **Tourism New Brunswick**, PO Box 12345, Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6, ☎ 800/561-0123, or the **Visitors Centre**, 220 King St. (at the bridge), Woodstock, NB E7M 1Z8, ☎ 506/325-9049, open daily 9 am to 8 pm, from late June through August.

In the Tobique region you can get information at the **Tourist Park**, Box 129, Plaster Rock, NB E0J 1W0, ☎ 506/356-6077. It's open daily, 9 am to 8 pm, mid-June through August.

For the far north, contact the **Tourist Information Centre**, Blvd. Hebert (TransCanada-2, Exit 18), Edmundston, NB E3V 1J6, ☎ 506/737-5064, open daily, 8 am to 8 pm, June through August.

If you are entering the province from Québec, stop at the beautiful **Tourist Information Centre** on TransCanada-2 at the border in Saint-Jacques, ☎ 506/735-2747. Their illuminated tourist maps of the different routes through the province are illustrated with highlights of each, and they show videos on the province.

Adventures

■ On Foot

Although designed primarily for cyclists, walkers also make good use of the 90-mile stretch of the **Petit Temis Interprovincial Linear Park** between Edmundston, New Brunswick and Rivière-du-Loup, Québec. Rest stops every mile, access to the Botanical Garden (see *Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences*, below) and the lakeside town of Cabano with its restored fort and rose gardens make the routes particularly attractive for walking.

The network of six trails in the Forestry School's **Experimental Forest** are free, or you can have a naturalist guide to go with you for $2 per person. Two of the trails have interpretive signs. The forest is located 25 miles from Edmundston, off TransCanada-2 in Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska, ☎ 506/737-5238.

Fraser Tree Nursery at Second Falls has a 2.5-mile interpretive trail, ☎ 506/737-2220. Pick up a map from the box at the trailhead. The land is regenerating after a forest fire, and the trail passes through woods and along the edge of the nursery. Take a look inside the greenhouse you will pass toward the end of the trail to see spruce seedlings getting a start on life. To get there from Edmundston, take Victoria St. to Olivier Boucher Rd., about eight miles out of town.

A 20-mile walking trail along the St. John River, with many fine overlook views and benches, runs through the town of **Hartland**, and can be accessed from several points along Rte. 105. **Centreville**, near the international border west of Bristol on Rte. 110, has walking trails along the banks of the Presque Isle River.

A trail leading right from TransCanada-2 between **Meductic** and **Woodstock** has two attractions. It is an old Maliseet portage trail, well used by Native Americans, and a side trail from it leads to Hayes Falls, with nearly 100 feet of cascades. About three miles north of Exit 212 is a large sign on the highway announcing the Maliseet Indian Trail, a short distance beyond. You can park on the road opposite the trailhead, on the east side of the highway. Blue markers with white stripes mark the trail, which is wide and well-maintained until you get to the fork leading to the falls, less than a mile from the highway. Turn right here (the second trail is not easy to spot, so watch for it), still following the striped markers. Nor far beyond, take another fork to the right, which leads down to the bottom of the falls.

■ On Wheels

Road Biking

Canada's first **interprovincial cycling trail** borders the Madawaska River and Temiscouata Lake, in Québec, as it travels from Edmundston to Rivière-du-Loup, also in Québec. **Motel Le Brayon**, 40 des Rochers, Saint-Basile, NB E7C 2J4, ☎ 506/263-5514, fax 506/263-5462, offers a package that solves the problem of returning on the same path. Two nights' lodgings, two breakfasts, a picnic lunch, a day's bicycle rental, a bicycling map and shuttle service to bring you back, costs $130 per person in the spring and fall, $150 in the summer.

The lakeside town of **Cabano**, Québec, is a good destination for day-trip, with a visit to its historic Fort Ingall and rose gardens. Lunch in one of its French restaurants or have espresso at Quai des Beumes Café Terrasse. The old railway station, right on the bicycle path, is now operated as an inn called Auberge de la Gare, and houses the information center where you can get directions to the nearby fort and see menus from the restaurants.

Woodstock Cycle Centre on Lower Main St. in Woodstock, ☎ 506/324-8356, offers repairs and equipment, as well as bicycle rentals. Check there for information on their bicycle tours.

Tobique Nordic Adventure, 71 Hillcrest St., Plaster Rock, NB E7G 1V1 (☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453, www.TobiqueNordic.com), rents bicycles from their base here, as well in Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

Larsen's Log Lodge has bicycles available for guests. It's north of Fredericton not far from the Saint John River, at 67 Hawkin's Rd., Rte. 585, Millville E0H 1M0, ☎ 506/463-2731, fax 506/463-0095.

■ On Water

Baker Lake Park, about 20 miles from Edmundston, has a swimming beach and canoe rentals. Several campgrounds have small swimming beaches on lakes or the river.

Canoeing & Kayaking

The St. John, Madawaska and Tobique Rivers all offer fine paddling waters – the Tobique is canoeable for about 80 miles. **Tobique Nordic Adventure**, ☎ 506/356-8353, www.TobiqueNordic.com, rents canoes and kayaks from Mt. Carleton Provincial Park.

Night kayaking in the quiet waters of Glazer Lake is offered by **Eagle Valley Adventures** in Edmundston, ☎ 506/992-2827 or 888/26-CANOE. The four-hour tour, which includes a stop for a snack, leaves from the

Clair Historical Site, and will operate with as few as two people, at $50 each, including kayak, head lamps and a guide.

River Country Campground in Florenceville, ☎ 506/278-3700, rents canoes to campground guests and to the public.

Stormdale Lodge in Hartland (☎ 506/375-4566 or 877-448-8008) and **Larsen's Log Lodge** in Millville (☎ 506/463-2731) both have canoeing available to guests. See page 131 for details on the lodges.

River & Lake Tours

In Grand Falls you can take a boat tour of the gorge, signing up at the **La Rochelle Visitor Centre** in Centennial Park, ☎ 506/475-7766 or 877/475-7769, between May and mid-October. The cost is $15 adults, $8 ages five-12. If you have more than four in a group, the cost is less.

Eagle Valley Adventures in Edmundston, ☎ 506/992-2827 or 888/26-CANOE, operates four-hour nature and historical tours of the Madawaska River in motorized cedar canoes for $60, from June through September. These begin in Edmundston and go into Québec; evening trips return to the city after dark for a unique night view. Full-day trips on the St. John River, at $120 ($50 for ages six-15) include hot lunches prepared by well-trained chefs and served along the riverbanks. Their "La Republicaine" trip weaves among the river islands between Edmundston and Clair, stopping for a tour of the historical site (see *Sightseeing*, page 129) and for a riverside lunch. You may see loons, eagles, ospreys, hawks and owls, along with flora unique to the river. The "American Colony Tour" travels the same route, with a stop in St. Clair, but focuses on history, both official and folklore, with stories about Prohibition days when rum-running was a profitable business on the river. It's a good-humored look at the history of a region largely ignored by history books. The "Eagle's Run" tour begins at the St. Clair museum and goes through the narrow channel, stopping at The Ledges on the way to Crew Island for a hot lunch. Then the trip continues up the St. Francis River to Glazier Lake. On the way back downstream, after a walking tour to explore the plant life of Kennedy Island, you run the rapids before returning to the take-out.

Tobique Nordic Adventure, 71 Hillcrest St., Plaster Rock, NB E7G 1V1, ☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453, www.TobiqueNordic.com, organizes guided tours by canoe and kayak. They are the same outfitters who manage the wilderness camps in Mount Carleton Provincial Park, where they also rent canoes and kayaks.

River Country Campground in Florenceville, ☎ 506/278-3700, offers river tours on their small excursion boat.

■ On Snow

Along with the usual northern winter outdoor pursuits, you can visit sugar houses in March and April to watch maple sap become syrup and sugar. In Saint-Andre, north of Grand Falls, stop at **Paradis de la Petite Montage** on Bourgoin Rd. to see this process, ☎ 506/473-6683.

Skiing

Mont Farlagne north of Edmundston, ☎ 506/735-8401, has 17 trails on a 600-foot vertical drop; the longest run is just over a mile. Six of the trails and the beginner slope are lighted for night skiing, and equipment rentals and ski lessons are available. It's a family-oriented area, with a lot of activities, including theme weekends and a winter carnival at the end of January. For snow conditions, call ☎ 506/735-6617.

Close to Fredericton, and with the highest vertical drop in the province (850 feet), is **Crabbe Mountain**, ☎ 506/463-8311, fax 506/463-8259. The mountain's longest run is 1.5 miles, and they offer glade skiing and a snowboard park. Night skiing is Wednesday through Sunday and they offer learn-to-ski packages. For snow conditions, call ☎ 506/855-SNOW.

Cross-country trails abound, using abandoned rail lines and the numerous logging roads that web the area. The rail line from Plaster Rock to Perth-Andover, along the Tobique River, is a multi-purpose trail used by skiers in the winter. Guided ski tours, which include an introduction to the basics for beginners and an all-day trail pass so you can continue skiing on your own, are offered by **Tobique Nordic**, in Plaster Rock, ☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453. You can reserve directly or through the Day Adventures program.

Ten miles of marked trails in the **Experimental Forest** are available for cross-country skiers, as is the chalet. The forest is 25 miles from Edmundston, off TransCanada-2 in Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska, ☎ 506/737-5238.

Several cross-country ski clubs maintain trails in the area, many of which also have warming huts or chalets. In Edmundston contact **Republic Cross Country Club**, ☎ 506/735-6431. The **Tobique Cross Country Ski Club** is in Plaster Rock, with 20 miles of marked trails and a chalet, ☎ 506/356-8851 or 356-8503. **Perth Andover's Cross Country Ski Club** has six miles of trail with a chalet, ☎ 506/273-6829.

Both **Stormdale Lodge** and **Larsen's Log Lodge** are good choices for skiing and other winter activities. Stormdale has cross-country trails in its back yard and Larsen's has trails with cross-country skis and snowshoes available to guests. Larsen's is at 67 Hawkin's Rd., Rte. 585, Millville, NB E0H 1M0, ☎ 506/463-2731, fax 506/463-0095. Stormdale is on Foster Rd., Box 892, Hartland, NB E1P 3K4, ☎ 506/375-4566, fax 392-

8330, 877-448-8008, www.stormdalelodge.com. For details about either lodging, see *Where to Stay & Eat*, page 131.

Hotel Republique – City Hotels in Edmunston is less than two miles from the slopes of Mont Farlagne, which has 17 trails. They offer a package that includes one night's lodging, breakfast and a one-day lift ticket for under $60 per person. 919 Canada Rd., Edmunston, NB E3V 3X2, ☎ 506/735-5525, fax 506/739-6243, 800/563-CITY, e-mail csc@cityhotels.ca.

Snowmobiling

The river valley has one of the heaviest concentrations of provincial snowmobile trails, with routes along both sides of the river in many places and an international twist to your snow travels as you cross and re-cross the US-Canadian border to make several loops. Trails continue on to Québec, as well. A particularly scenic loop uses three trails to circle from Beechwood (north of Bristol) along the east bank of the river, through Perth Andover, up the Tobique River to Plaster Rock, westward through New Denmark to Grand Falls, then along the international boundary for a stretch before rejoining the river, this time on its west bank, to return to Beechwood. You can find lodging and services along this route at Beechwood, Grand Falls and Plaster Rock. For a slightly shorter loop, you can cut across below Grand Falls to meet the border trail.

SNOWMOBILE INFORMATION: For more information about snowmobiling in the Upper River Valley, contact the local snowmobile clubs: **Northern Lights Trailblazers** in Hartland, ☎ 506/375-4061; **Woodstock Trailmakers**, ☎ 506/328-4469; or **Twin River Snowmobile Club** in Perth-Andover, ☎ 506/273-6091; or .

The **Interprovincial Linear Park** is part of the multi-purpose trail which will eventually stretch from sea to sea across Canada, and the section between Edmundston and Rivière-du-Loupe, Québec, is completed. Snowmobilers use the trail in the winter.

Provincial Snowmobile Trail 19 runs through Edmundston, and several motels have connecting trails leading to it and offer special packages for riders, including **Comfort Inn**, 5 Bateman Ave., Edmundston, NBE3V 3L1, ☎ 506/739-8361 or 800/228-5150, fax 506/737-8183. Lodging packages begin at $33 per person. **Motel Le Brayon**, 40 des Rochers, Saint-Basile, NB E7C 2J4, ☎ 506/263-5514, fax 506/263-5462, also has trail access, with rooms beginning at $45.

Provincial trails also run past **Crabbe Mountain**, ☎ 506/463-8311, where there is trail access to the main ski lodge, as well as facilities for refueling and snowmobile parking.

Sledding & Sleighrides

You can learn the art of mushing as you and your team explore the fabled Republic of Madawaska with an Acadian guide well-versed in its stories and folklore. "The Great Madawaska Husky Trek" is a half-day trip with instruction in using a sled and handling your team, and a stop for hot tea and a snack in an upland cabin warmed by a woodstove, operated by **Eagle Valley Adventures** in Clair, ☎ 506/992-2827 or 888/262-2663, fax 506/992-2827. The cost is $70 per person or $50 for a child under 12.

In February there are **dogsled races** in the town of Clair, on the St. John river a few miles upstream from Edmundston, ☎ 506/992-2181. A smaller racing event is held in nearby Ste.-Anne-de-Madawaska, on Quisibis Lake. For information, contact Club de Chien, ☎ 506/445-2749.

For an old-fashioned sledding party on new-fashioned sleds, reserve an air tube slide at **New Denmark Ski Lodge** in New Denmark, between Plaster Rock and Grand Falls, ☎ 506/473-2481. For $10 per person you can sled for three hours, enjoy a meal in the riverside lodge, and skate on their rink. The skate rental is not included. Without a meal, you can sled from noon to 3:30pm, 4 to 7:30 pm, or 8 to 11:30 pm. for $7 adult, $5 for ages 12 and under.

■ On Horseback

Trail rides with instruction are offered at **Nature's Ranch** in Ste.-Anne-de-Madawaska, ☎ 506/445-3418 or 506/445-2605. Guided rides can be as short as half an hour or as long as five hours, which takes you to the experimental forest, where you stop for a lunch (included in the cost). Rates are $12 per person for one hour, $22 for two hours, or $10 per hour for longer trips. The ranch is open year-round. The trails are well-groomed and mostly through woodlands.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

Edmundston and the area around it are peopled by a rich cultural mix of French and English, but the French here are called *Brayonne*, and their traditions differ from those of the Acadians in the rest of New Brunswick.

Before either of the European groups came, peoples of the First Nation roamed the woodlands and fished the pristine waters of the rivers. Some of their descendants live at the **Negoot-Gook Maliseet Nation** near Perth-Andover, where you can find examples of their traditional crafts in the gift shop, ☎ 506/273-1140. On Labor Day weekend they hold the **Wabanaki Aboriginal Music Festival**. You can also buy native crafts

in a shop at **Madawaska Maliseet First Nation Reservation** in Saint-Basile, the smallest in the province with a population of about 100.

You can learn more about the various peoples of the region at the free **Musée du Madawaska**, with excellent displays of local history and culture, Blvd. Hebert (TransCanada-2, Exit 18), Edmundston NB E3V 1J6, ☎ 506/737-5064, open daily from 8 am to 8 pm, June through August.

The Madawaska Maliseet First Nation offers a unique opportunity to learn about their traditions with the **Aboriginal Escape to Nature**. For $15 ($10 seniors, $5 children), a Maliseet guide will take you on a narrated one-hour nature trail hike while sharing the natural know-how and ancient wisdom of the Maliseet. After the walk, an hour-long program teaches about hazelnut woodcraft; traditional snacks are included. Don't forget to take along your binoculars and some bug spray. ☎ 506/735-0028 for reservations and information, or reserve your spot through the Day Adventures program.

To round out the ethnic stew, **New Denmark**, on Rte. 108 between Plaster Rock and Grand Falls, is home to the largest Danish community in North America. They have lived in the area for over 125 years, and a drive through their beautifully tended farmland is especially lovely when the fields are bordered in bright fall foliage. The story of the first immigrants to Canada is told at **New Denmark Memorial Museum**, ☎ 506/553-6724. An immigrant's home and museum contain collections of household and farm implements, dolls and Danish porcelain. Its hours vary, but you're likely to find someone to let you in if you ask in town.

The sheep at **High Time Sheep Farm** in Bloomfield almost say "baaaa" with a Maine accent, so close is the town to the international boundary west of Hartland. You can learn the skills of a shepherd in a Day Adventure that begins with a full country breakfast at Evelyn's B&B, which is also on the farm. The cost is $15 for adults, $10 for children or $45 for a family of four. Programs are scheduled daily, May through October, and you can sign up through a Day Adventures center or by calling the farm, ☎ 506/832-2422.

To learn about the craft of candlemaking and to see a collection of antique molds and equipment, stop at **Chandelles Artisanales**, at 514 Chemin Baisley in Saint-Jacques (☎ 506/735-5514). Or you can combine your visit with a tour and instruction in candle-making. Offered as a Day Adventure, "Enlighten Your Vacation" gives visitors the opportunity to learn all about the craft and make two candles of their own. The package is $12 for adults, $8 for children. Aprons are provided for the candlemaking, but you should dress for the weather since there is some outdoor touring. The studio and shop is open June through Christmas Eve, Monday through Friday, 9-5; and weekends in July and August, Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 1-5. Admission to the museum displays is free.

LOCAL TREATS: Apart from its lumber and logging history, which is celebrated each year with a Woodsmen's Competition during Woodstock's Old Home Week in July, the area's best known wild product is the **fiddlehead fern**, a popular treat found in grocery stores, farmers markets and on restaurant menus all over the province each spring. Plaster Rock celebrates this bounty in its Fiddlehead Festival each July 1, on Canada Day.

■ Natural Areas & Wildlife

The best-known natural attraction in the area is **Grand Falls**, dropping over jagged rocks in a mass of white before swirling through a narrow gorge with rock walls, where the rushing waters have worn giant potholes. Viewing platforms at two different interpretive centers look down into the turbulent waters, and a trail and stairs down to the potholes give even closer looks. A guided walking tour will help you understand the geology of the gorge and falls, as you descend the 253 steps to the rocks at water level, and see the holes sculpted by the rushing waters. The cost of the two-hour tour, which includes a pass to the stairway, is $10, or $30 for a family, ☎ 506/473-6013. It costs $2 ($1 for students, $5 for a family) to use the stairway and trails to the river. For a boat trip through the gorge, see *River & Lake Tours*, page 123.

In Saint-Jacques four miles north of Edmundston, don't miss **The New Brunswick Botanical Garden**, TransCanada-2, Exit 8, ☎ 506/735-3074. It is open daily 9 am to dusk, June through mid-October. Admission is $4.75 adults, $2.25 ages seven-12. Gardens include collections of roses, lilies and alpine plants, themed plantings, vegetable, herb, alpine, bonsai, water and shade gardens. The rose gardens are particularly beautiful in early summer, but a good portion of the more than 80,000 plants and 30,000 annual bedding plants are in bloom all summer.

Nackawic's International Garden, on the town green in Nackawic, has more than 50 varieties of trees from around the world, ☎ 506/575-2241.

On a hillside above Saint-Jacques in the village of Moulin Mornealt is **Ferme Aqua-Zoo**, ☎ 506/739-9149. Here you can see about 50 species of native and exotic animals, from deer and coyotes to yaks, wolves and buffalo. Along with a population of more than 80 large animals in the zoo, which is a family-run hobby-turned-business, there are 42 different kinds of chickens, including some very unusual exotic breeds. The four lakes on the large property are stocked with trout – some of them very large – and you can fish there, too. The zoo is open daily from mid-May to mid-Sep-

tember, from 10 am to dusk, and admission is $3.45 for adults and $1.75 for children.

Sightseeing

Rte. 103 follows the river bank closely through Woodstock, known for its Victorian buildings and The **Old Carleton County Court House**, 19 Court St., Upper Woodstock, ☎ 506/328-9706. Open daily 9 am to noon and 1-6 pm in July and August, it contains historic needlework and crafts.

Hartland Covered Bridge, the world's longest, is more than 1,000 feet long, about a fifth of a mile. You can cross it or photograph it from the center of Hartland, whose main street parallels the river. It was built in 1901.

Clair Historical Site is in the town of Clair, about 20 miles from Edmundston on the St. John River, ☎ 506/992-3637. Along with an historical house from 1848, the site contains a bunkhouse, cookhouse, church and barn, in which is a museum of agricultural tools. It is open mid-June through September, 9 am to 8 pm daily, with an admission fee of $2.

Adjacent to the Botanic Garden in Saint-Jacques is the **Antique Automobile Museum**, ☎ 506/735-2525. Gleaming examples of the greats in the history of automobiles – a 1905 REO touring car, a 1933 Rolls Royce Phantom – and unique vehicles, including a 1910 electrically-operated passenger coupe are displayed in a new facility built to house this private collection. It is open daily, June-August, from 8 am to 9 pm.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

Chandelles Artisanales, at 514 Chemin Baisley in Saint-Jacques (☎ 506/735-5514), offers candles, and a chance to learn how they are made.

The craftsmen at **Hillandale Woodworking** are all members of the New Brunswick Craft Council, and their shop reflects that mark of quality. There is a wide variety of handcrafted burl work, candlesticks, coffee tables and even lamp shades. It's on Rte. 2, east of Perth-Andover; ☎ 506/273-2971, www.atyp.com/hillandalewoodturning.

■ Festivals & Events

In late June is **Aboriginal Day** at the Madawaska Maliseet settlement in Edmundston, featuring crafts, food, games, and dances. ☎ 506/739-9765.

Festival du Draveur is the local observance of the Acadian festival held in mid-August throughout French-speaking New Brunswick.

The Brayonne celebrate their unique traditions and offer the special foods of their heritage at the **Brayonne Festival** in early August, ☎ 506/739-6608.

Where to Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Woodstock to Perth-Andover

Stiles Motel and Hometown Restaurant has tidy rooms and a good home-style restaurant ($$) with a salad bar and known for fresh-baked breads and pies. The service is particularly friendly here. 827 Main Street, Woodstock, NB E0J 2B0, ☎ 506/328-6671, fax 506/328-3737. ($$)

In one of the town's many fine Victorian homes is the **Queen Victoria B&B**, a period piece in Victorian antiques and decorations. 133 Chapel St., Woodstock, NB E0J 2B0, ☎ 506/328-8382. ($$)

If you are just passing through and want to stop along the highway without going into town (which would be a shame unless you'd already explored Woodstock on your way up-river), you'll find well-maintained, attractive rooms at **Atlantic Inns**. The dining room ($-$$) is reliable as well, serving home-style dishes like ham with pineapple, fisherman's platter, and fish & chips. TransCanada-2 at Walker Mill Rd., Woodstock, NB E0J 2B0, ☎ 506/328-6688. ($-$$)

For comfortable, homey rooms and beds covered with handmade quilts, stay in the farmhouse at **Campbell's Bed & Breakfast**. The pantry and refrigerator are filled with farm-fresh eggs, milk and other breakfast fixings, so you can prepare your own morning meal. The engaging hostess,

who lives in the other house on the same farm, will keep you laughing with her stories after breakfast.Rte. 105 (RR#1), Hartland, NB E0J 1N0, ☎ 506/375-4775. ($)

Larsen's Log Lodge is set in the woods about 45 minutes north of Fredericton. The suites in this large log home have private baths with whirlpool tubs and fireplaces. Rates include a full breakfast, and dinners in front of the fireplace or on the big porch can be arranged by advance reservation. A hot tub is available to guests, who also have use of the inn's bikes, canoes and snowshoes. 67 Hawkin's Rd., Rte. 585, Millville, NB E0H 1M0, ☎ 506/463-2731, fax 506/463-0095.

Stormdale Lodge is not far from Hartland's famous long covered bridge. Operated by Tim and Leslie Varney, the inn has four rooms, all fresh and attractive, with lots of knotty pine and big bright common areas with a wood stove. It's wheelchair-accessible, and guests have access to a kitchen and laundry. An extended continental breakfast is included. Canoeing, paddleboating and hiking opportunities are available, and in winter there is cross-country skiing. From TransCanada-2 take Rte. 104 for a bit over 4½ miles, then turn onto Mainstream Road, crossing over the longest covered bridge. Turn left onto Foster Road and proceed just over a mile; the lodge is on the left. Box 892, Hartland, NB E1P 3K4, ☎ 506/375-4566, fax 392-8330, 877-448-8008, www.stormdalelodge.com.

Mary's Bakery serves light lunches and tea-time goodies, including pies made of whatever berry is in season. On the riverside promenade in Perth-Andover, ☎ 506/273-2885.

York's Dining Room, open daily from May through mid-October, serves home-style meals, including lobster dinners. They are open for dinner daily, and for lunch every day except Saturday. Don't wait for the menu, because you won't get one. You'll get your choice of soup or lobster bisque and a green salad, then a hot corn fritter in maple syrup (think of this as dessert when you still have room for it). Then you have your choice of lobster (a good-sized one, at that) or any of several other entrée choices, then a smaller portion of another entrée, just so you can sample it. If you haven't slid under the table from the sheer weight of all this food, you can choose from a staggering list of desserts, from strawberry shortcake to their own mince pie. West Riverside Drive in Perth-Andover, ☎ 506/273-2847. ($$)

Down Home B&B/Café is a comfortable B&B in a home that was built in 1881. All rooms have private bath, TV and sitting area. Guests also share a parlor with books, games and movies. The adjacent café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfasts include eggs Benedict and a big selection of specialty pancakes. A salad with barbecued chicken and a rich seafood chowder highlight the lunch menu. For dinner they offer items such as peppered tuna or veggie lasagna. 698 Main St., Woodstock E7M 2E3, ☎ 506/328-1819, fax 325-1881, 888/329-1819, e-mail downhome@nb.sympatico.ca. Lodging ($$), café. ($-$$)

If you're looking for the action in Woodstock, stop at **The Loft**. Downstairs is raucous and upstairs is far from sedate, but they have a large menu with everything from chili and fajitas to a fisherman's platter (under $10) and chicken teriyaki. The kids' menu is $1.99. Off Rte. 103, south of the bridge, ☎ 506/328-9326. ($-$$)

■ The Northern Valley

Nyborg's Bed & Breakfast is a good place to get a view of community life in the Danish settlement. Foley Brook Rd (just off Rte. 108), New Denmark, NB E0J 1T0, ☎ 506/553-6490. ($)

It would be a shame to be in Edmundston and miss staying and dining at **Auberge La Fief**. Rooms are warm, tasteful and inviting, and the dining room is as elegant as the classic French-with-a-Canadian-verve dinners they serve. We rank it among Atlantic Canada's best. 87 Church St., Edmundston, NB E3V 1J6, ☎ 506/735-0400, fax 506/735-0401. ($$)

Comfort Inn has reliable lodging and offers reasonably priced packages. 5 Bateman Ave., Edmundston, NB E3V 3L1, ☎ 506/739-8361 or 800/228-5150, fax 506/737-8183. ($$)

Motel Le Brayon & Chalets has clean, tidy cabins and a restaurant with a terrace, on a lightly wooded hillside overlooking TransCanada-2. 40 des Rochers, Saint-Basile, NB E7C 2J4, ☎ 506/263-5514, fax 506/263-5462. ($-$$)

Maple Tourist Homes and Bed & Breakfast has nicely decorated bedrooms, and their convenient location is within walking distance of the falls. 142 Main St., Grand Falls, NB E3Z 1E1, ☎ 506/473-1763. ($-$$)

Settler's Inn and Motel has spacious modern cabins with full kitchens and screened porches. There are washing machines and tennis courts, with free swimming at the adjacent park. The coffee shop serves light meals. 141 Main St., Plaster Rock, NB E0J 1W0, ☎ 506/356-9000 or toll free 888/356-273-4133, fax 506/356-8879. ($$)

L'Oasis at The New Brunswick Botanical Garden serves budget lunches indoors and on a terrace above the gardens. TC2, Exit 8 in Saint-Jacques, ☎ 506/735-3074. ($)

Bel-Air, like many restaurants in New Brunswick, has a split personality. About half the menu is Chinese, the other half a mix of seafood, charcoal-grilled meats and Italian dishes. So if one of you hankers for Moo Goo Gai Pan when the other one wants pizza, you're in luck. 174 Victoria St., Edmundston, ☎ 506/735-3329. ($-$$)

■ Camping

River Country Campground has tent and RV sites on a grassy riverbank lined by white birches. Sites are $15-17, and the park is open May through September. It has a beach, canoes rentals and river tours. RR#2, Florenceville, NB E0J 1K0, ☎ 506/278-3700.

Tourist Park, open mid-June through August, has campsites in an open pine forest for $12-$14, plus a pool, and trails around the small lake. Look for it at the crossroads at the bridge, behind the giant fiddlehead fern and the wooden lumberman in his canoe, both carved of wood. Box 129, Plaster Rock, NB E0J 1W0, ☎ 506/356-6077.

Parc Provincial de la Municipalité de Saint-Leonard, after some time in private hands, is now run by the town, retaining its tidy appearance and spacious layout, with a beach, walking trails and separate picnic area. Sites with hookups are $16 to $25, with rates dropping for multi-night stays. It's open June through early September. 470 Rte. 17, Saint-Leonard, NB E0L 1M0, ☎ 506/423-6815.

The Mountains

The Appalachian Range provides eastern Canada's highest elevations. It's an area with very few roads, but uninterrupted miles of climbing, hiking, skiing and snowmobile trails. A downhill ski area and a long winter's ice cover for fishing add to the trails to make this a winter sports center. The Tobique River winds through scenic miles, with just enough whitewater to make canoeing an adventure. The Restigouche River, which shares its name with the county encompassing this region, is so legendary a fishing stream (a 90-pound salmon was caught – and released – here not long ago) that unless you know somebody who owns one of its pools it's hard to find a place to fish in it.

Geography & History

The region known as the **Restigouche** is largely wilderness, stretching west from Rte. 17 to the Québec border for about 50 miles without encountering a road or a town, and east even farther, as far as Bathurst, with only the tenuous dotted line of the seasonal

Rte. 180 across it. It's rough terrain, with the Appalachian Mountains rising to more than 2,500-foot altitude at Mount Carleton.

This peak and the lakes surrounding it are part of **Mount Carleton Provincial Park**, a green spot in the center of a virtually empty expanse of map.

To the north the area is bounded by the **Bay of Chaleur**, which begins west of Campbellton at Tide Head, and the mouth of the **Restigouche River**. South of Mount Carleton are more peaks and more rivers, all headwaters and tributaries of the **Miramichi**.

Much of the region's history can be summed up in one word: timber. It was logging country almost from the earliest days of its European settlement, and vast areas are still owned by timber companies. The Restigouche was a major transportation route for the Micmacs, and later for the logs that raced to the bay on its spring freshets. With the last of the spring log runs past, and because so few roads reach the Restigouche River, and only one town – Kedgwick River – is on it, the river is almost the sole domain of the salmon and those wealthy enough to own a piece of their spawning route.

The Battle of Restigouche, in 1760, was the last naval encounter in the Seven Years' War between the French and the British as they struggled for control of what would be eastern Canada. The French had begun their first settlement of the area in 1685, and the next wave of immigration was by Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia, who later moved on to Québec. In the early 1800s Scottish settlers arrived, followed by more Acadians, who stayed to work on the railroads and in the growing lumber industry, which was a mainstay of the region's economy by mid-century.

Getting Around

You can approach this region from the upper St. John River Valley, either through Plaster Rock on **Rte. 385** or from Saint-Leonard on **Rte. 17**. The latter is the more direct route if you are going straight to Campbellton; the former leads along a scenic, winding mountain road and past the entrance to Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

Campbellton, the northern gateway to this region, is also easy to reach from the east coast, via Bathurst on **Rte. 11**. A more direct route from Bathurst directly to Saint-Quentin, passing very close to Mount Carleton, is under construction (and has been for some time).

Plaster Rock, south of this region, but on one of only two roads that reach it from the south, is a center for fishing and other outdoor activities to its north, and a good source of information on the area between the town and Mount Carleton.

Information Sources

Stop at the **Plaster Rock Tourist Information Centre**, 157 Main St., at the instersection of Rtes. 108 and 393, or contact them at Box 129, Plaster Rock NB E0J 1W0, ☎ 506/356-6070. The centre is open daily 9 am to 8 pm, from mid-June through August.

The information center at the northern entrance to this region is in a replica railway station at **Salmon Plaza**, Box 639, Campbellton, NB E3N 3H1, ☎ 506/789-2700, fax 506/789-7403.

Another well-stocked center for information is at the **Sugarloaf Mountain** base lodge in Campbellton, ☎ 506/789-2367.

Adventures

Adventure and the great outdoors are what this area is all about, with its mountain peaks, legendary rivers, and miles and miles of forest untouched by road or settlement.

■ On Foot

Hiking In Mount Carleton Provincial Park

Mount Carleton Provincial Park has 39 miles of hiking trails, in 10 routes that range from short walks to a waterfall to climbs to the peak of the mountain itself.

> **CAUTION:** Before taking any trail at Mount Carleton Provincial Park, sign in at the park headquarters; knowing where the hikers are allows the rangers to respond more quickly to emergencies.

The easiest trails are to **William's Falls** and **Pine Point**, the former a 15-minute walk through the forest and the second a one-mile trail around a point in the lake, where waterfowl are plentiful. The point is covered in a stand of red pines, regenerated after a forest fire in the early 1930s.

A little more demanding, the intermediate-level **Caribou Brook Trail** follows the old Indian portage between the two lakes, which connected the headwaters of the Nepisiguit and Tobique rivers, the only break in the water route that cut across the province from Bathurst to the St. John River valley. The **Mount Bailey Trail** is about four miles long, and climbs steadily through the hardwood forest along the shoulder of the

mountain, where a one-mile (round trip) side trail leads to the rocky summit.

Dry Brook Trail, also classed as intermediate, crosses the divide between the waters that flow east to the Bay of Chaleur and west, then south, to the Bay of Fundy via the St. John River. On the trail are several waterfalls, including one that is 30 feet high.

Two trails lead to the top of **Mount Carleton**, the easiest and shortest (2.5 miles) is from the east. It leads past an old fire tower to a ridge that leads to the open rocky summit, where you should be prepared for chilling winds on even the warmest of days. This is the highest peak in the Maritime provinces, with a view of several lakes and other mountains.

Hiking at Sugarloaf Mountain

You can also climb Sugarloaf Mountain in Campbellton, which has an elevation of almost 1,000 feet and views of the Bay of Chaleur and Restigouche Valley. (The summit is less rewarding than some for climbers, since it has a viewing platform reached by a chairlift.) A two-mile trail circles the base of the mountain and another slightly shorter trail circles Pritchard Lake. Altogether there are 12 miles of hiking trails in Sugarloaf Park.

■ On Wheels

Road Biking

The back roads of this area are so sparsely trafficked that cyclists could easily mistake them for wide bike paths. One tip: if you plan to cycle along the shore of the Bay of Chaleur, traveling from west to east will put the wind at your back, since the prevailing winds blow from the west.

Cyclists have to love a town named **Flatlands**, especially when it's in mountain country. Rte. 134 leads from Campbellton, along the mouth of the Restigouche, through Flatlands, and along the river. You can cross the bridge over the Restigouche and return on the Québec side of the river for a double dose of good scenery.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park has a road closed to cars but open to bicycling. It extends from the road along the shore of Lake Bathurst, passing Lake Teneriffe and Moose Bogan to the shores of Lake Nepisiguit. Another route leaves from the group camping area near the entrance gate, and a trail on which bicycles are allowed makes a loop through the woods from the park headquarters. Bicycles are allowed on any of the park's roads or cross-country ski trails, but not on the hiking trails.

BIKING MAP: The province has published a very useful pamphlet with maps and detailed directions for touring this area by bicycle on public roads and streets with little through traffic. Suggested routes are described and shown on a map. For a copy of it, call Tourism New Brunswick at ☎ 800/561-0123 and ask for the *Bicycle Tour Map and Guide*.

Mountain Biking

Tobique Nordic Adventure offers guided multi-day cycling tours, priced at about $300 for a three-day trip or $575 for five days, which includes meals and camping equipment. Rental for bicycles is $30 per day, with reduced rates for longer rentals. They will deliver bicycles for a $1-per-kilometer charge. They are headquartered at 71 Hillcrest St., Plaster Rock, NB E7G 1V1 (☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453, www.Tobique-Nordic.com), although they operate out of Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

■ On Water

Some of the first people to travel through this region came on water, by canoe. Long before Europeans arrived, Native Americans followed the Nepisiguit and Tobique rivers across this vast mountain wilderness. Today, you can paddle the same waters.

Canoeing & Kayaking

More than 200 miles of canoeable waters are accessible on and from the **Restigouche River**. The river runs through dense forests of cedar, spruce and balsam interspersed with white birch; beaver and mallards, plus an occasional osprey are common sights from the river. To run the river from Kedgwick Bridge to the Bay of Chaleur, a 57-mile stretch which includes some whitewater rapids, takes two or three days. You can camp almost anywhere on its sandy banks.

Anyone who enjoys canoeing – or who admires fine craftsmanship – should stop in Nictau on Rte. 385 at **Miller Canoes**, ☎ 506/356-2409. In a workshop on the hill behind the house you are likely to find third-generation canoe-maker Bill Miller building fine custom canoes. You can watch as he patiently fits each piece of wood in place and see the tools with which he bends the frames and planes the sheathing for some of the most beautiful craft that ever ran a river. The sign is hard to see, so look for a mailbox with a little canoe on top, about six miles north of the road with the Tobique River Tours sign, and about 20 miles south of the Mount Carleton park entrance.

Centre Echo Restigouche on Rte. 265 in Kedgwick River, ☎ 506/284-2022, fax 506/284-2927, is on the banks of the Restigouche, where they rent canoes and run organized canoe trips for groups as small as four persons. Accommodations in their modern log cabins are included in some packages, camping along the river is included in others. All packages include meals. One day canoeing with lunch is $75 per person; with three meals and lodging the price is $100 per person. They also rent camping equipment. Their longer trips (four days, $200 per person) explore the waters of the Nepisiguit River, which has its headwaters in Mount Carleton Provincial Park. Multi- , full- and half-day guided canoe excursions all require advance reservations, which may be made through the Day Adventure Centres.

Tobique River Tours in Riley Brook, ☎ 506/356-2111, rents Old Town canoes and kayaks, and provides a shuttle service on the Tobique River. They have carrying trailers, or they will meet you at your take-out with your own vehicle. Half-day canoe rentals are $17.50, full-day $30. Kayaks are $10 for half-day and $20 full-day. Most shuttle transport in the local area is $10. Those who have canoed in wilderness waters in mosquito season (which is anytime from spring thaw to the first snow) will be happy to hear that this outfitter will provide smudgepots at no charge.

Tobique Nordic Adventure, offers guided tours by canoe and kayak. A four-hour kayak trip on Nictau Lake, with lunch and instruction (or you can be paddled by a guide in a double) is $50 for adults, $25 for children. Trips down the Tobique River by canoe are priced at about $300 for a three-day trip or $575 for five days, which includes meals and camping equipment. Rental for canoes is $40 per day and kayaks are $30 per day, with reduced rates for longer rentals. Tobique's address is 71 Hillcrest St., Plaster Rock, NB E7G 1V1, ☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453, www.TobiqueNordic.com, although they operate out of Mount Carleton Provincial Park.

Petit-Gadoo River Runs, in Nigadoo (farther along the Chaleur coast toward Bathurst), ☎ 506/783-4553, 506/783-3649 or 506/547-4554, offers guided canoe trips on the Tobique and Restigouche rivers, as well as canoe rentals and shuttle service. A three-day excursion on the Restigouche, camping along the river is $50 per person (if you provide the food) or $85 with meals and a guide. A three-day excursion on the Tobique, which runs through Plaster Rock, with a guide and food included, is $95 per person. All include transportation from Nigadoo.

Restigouche Frontier in Campbellton, ☎ 506/759-8677, fax 506/546-3739, does two- and three-day guided canoe trips on the Restigouche, including canoes, meals and camping equipment, staying at tent sites along the river, beginning at $190 per person.

Centre de Plein Air du Vieux Moulin in Saint-Quentin, ☎ 506/235-1110, also runs guided trips by canoe and kayak.

Tobique & Serpentine Camps on Rte. 385 at Riley Brook, ☎ 506/356-8351, rent canoes from their attractive cottages, and the **Kedgwick Canoe and Kayak Club**, ☎ 506/284-2201, rents canoes and kayaks. In Campbellton you can rent canoes from **LeBlanc Rentals** on Boucher St., ☎ 506/753-6080.

Fishing

Public access to salmon fishing on the Restigouche is limited to the section between Montgomery Bridge and the mouth of Jardin Brook, and on two other "Crown Reserve" sections. Daily permits are sold to both residents and non-residents. All non-residents must hire a local guide in order to fish; the guide or outfitter will arrange for the license. Prices for it vary according to the license duration and specifics.

■ On Snow

Both **Mount Carleton Provincial Park** and **Sugarloaf Park** are open in the winter for snowmobile, cross-country and snowshoeing. Real winter enthusiasts can camp at Mount Carleton. At Sugarloaf, a 1.5-mile trail beginning at the entrance to the campground is reserved for snowshoeing. A hill for tobogganing and a natural pond, lighted and groomed for ice skating, round out the park's winter sports.

Skiing

Both cross-country and downhill skiing are available at **Sugarloaf Park**, ☎ 506/789-2366, snow conditions 506/789-2392, in Campbellton, where some trails are lighted for night skiing. Nine alpine trails, with a maximum run of 3,500 feet, are served by a double chairlift and two T-bars. They also have a snowboard park. The 18 miles of groomed cross-country trails are mostly concentrated around the cross-country ski lodge, but one longer one circles Pritchard Lake.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park has groomed trails ranging in length from half a mile to four miles, all beginning at a heated warm-up cabin. Or you can ski on any of the 30 miles of roads, which you will be sharing with snowmobilers.

Les Montagnards Cross Country Ski Club in Campbellton, ☎ 506/759-9722, and **Club de ski de fond Husky** in St-Quentin, ☎ 506/235-3253, are good sources of local cross-country ski information.

Centre de Plein Air du Vieux Moulin in St-Quentin, ☎ 506/235-1110, has cross-country ski trails, skating and cabin rental.

Snowmobiling

Mount Carleton Provincial Park and **Sugarloaf Park** are open in the winter for snowmobiling, with their own trails, in addition to access to the provincial trail network. Provincial trail #23 passes through the length of Mount Carleton, connecting on the east to the main trail between Bathurst and Miramichi, and on the west, via Riley Brook, to Plaster Rock and the upper St. John River valley. The 30 miles of roads inside the park are used by snowmobilers. Trails in **Sugarloaf Park** circle the base of the mountain (about two miles) and the perimeter of the park, with a total of 20 miles.

Centre Echo Restigouche in Kedgwick River, ☎ 506/284-2022, fax 506/284-2927, has year-round log cabins (with kitchens) on the banks of the Restigouche. The cabins have direct access to NB Snowmobile Trail #17, linking to the entire trail network.

The local group is the **Restigouche Snowmobile Club** in Campbellton, ☎ 506/753-7956.

Dogsledding

Dogsled races are held in Nictau Village each year, and you can usually arrange to go dogsledding with the owners of **Black's Cabins** in Riley Brook. To find out about either, call Rita Black, ☎ 506/356-2429.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

Tobique Salmon Barrier is a combined project of the provincial fisheries, Fraser, Inc. and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. They detain spawning-sized salmon here to protect them during their spawn. From their deck you can see these fish in the waters below, through polarized glasses, which they provide. With all these fish, you can be sure to see bald eagles, fish hawks and osprey, which you can watch through the binoculars they also provide. Admission to the facility is free; it's about a mile north of Miller Canoes and 17 miles south of Mt. Carleton Provincial Park.

A rare chance to learn firsthand the crafts and traditions of the ancient Maliseet peoples is offered by **Bodin's Native Crafts and Supplies** in Tobique, ☎ 506/273-4066. A two-hour workshop includes instruction and all materials for you to make your own necklace, basket or dreamcatcher. A traditional snack and beverage may be served. The program is available Tuesday-Thursday, year-round, and costs $50 per person.

One of our favorite places to visit in the Restigouche is the lumber camp at the **Kedgwick Forestry Museum** in Kedgwick, ☎ 506/284-3138. The artifacts and buildings show life in the days when crews of lumbermen

worked all winter in the woods to cut the logs that would float down the Restigouche on the spring floods. An excellent audio-visual show introduces the open-air museum, a combination of early film footage and interviews with people who worked in the camps. Outside are bunkhouses, a blacksmith shop, office, storage sheds, cookhouse and a trapper's cabin, all filled with the tools and equipment used by the lumbermen, but what brings it all to life for us is that the guide is someone who remembers the camps. Rejean Bergeron's mother was a camp cook, and he worked in the camps. He was on the last log drive on the Restigouche when he was 16, in the 1960s. The museum is open in the summer, 10 am to 6 pm on weekends, 9 am to 6 pm weekdays, and costs $5 for adults, $3 over age 50, $2 for children. A campground is also on the property. Contact the museum or the Day Adventures program for a guided tour of the camps that includes plenty of local folklore, plus other activities and snacks. This costs $7 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under.

Sightseeing

New Brunswick towns tend toward giant replicas of their most famous product, from the big cow that welcomes you to Sussex to the world's largest ax in Nackawick. While all these are great fun, not all are works of art. One exception is the giant stainless steel salmon, nicknamed **Restigouche Sam**, on the waterfront in Campbellton. The fish seems arrested in mid-jump, its scales shimmering in the water jets from the fountain below it. The design and construction are excellent, and it would be a prized sculpture at the entrance to any art museum. It's also a handy landmark, and people in Campbellton are likely to give you directions beginning from "the fish."

Oliver's Museum in Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Restigouche focuses on the early Europeans who settled here, and features the contents of an old store, ☎ 506/284-2444.

Restigouche Gallery, 39 Andrew St., Campbellton (☎ 506/753-5750) is a combination of interpretive museum and exhibition space, with a discovery center that features hands-on exhibits on the cultures of the main groups that settled the area – the French, Acadian, English, Scottish and the Micmac. Special programs and performances are planned for children.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

Many of the lodging and dining facilities in this area are seasonal, so it's wise to call for a reservation at any time of year and check before driving any distance to a restaurant.

■ Along the Chaleur Coast

Campbellton Lighthouse Youth Hostel is Canada's only youth hostel in a lighthouse (but not the only lodging in one; see page 321 of the Prince Edward Island chapter), and centrally located at the waterfront. It's open in July and August, and features equipment storage, laundry facilities and on-site parking. 1 Ritchie St., Campbellton, NB E3N 3G1, ☎ 506/759-7044. ($)

Sanfar Cottages & Country Kettle Dining Room serves salmon (since Tide Head is at the mouth of the Restigouche, it's only right) wrapped in parchment, and scallops on the half-shell. The tidy cottages ($) have kitchenettes, and continental breakfast is free to guests in July and August. Rte. 134 west of Campbellton in Tide Head, ☎ 506/753-4287. ($$)

TIP: The Visitors Centre in Campbellton has a useful alcove featuring local menus. You can browse through these to see exactly what you'll find in nearly all the area's restaurants, from fast-food take-out to the most elegant dining room.

■ In the Heart of the Restigouche

Tobique River Tours has a nice log lodge, with one private room with bath upstairs and three smaller rooms with bunks and shared bath downstairs. The rate is $25 per person for either. A common room has kitchen facilities. They also run canoe trips (see page 138). In Riley Brook, RR#1, Plaster Rock, NB E0J 1W0, ☎ 506/356-2111, fax 506/633-0706. ($)

Tobique & Serpentine Camps have attractive rustic cabins which you can rent by the night, week or month. They sleep up to six people, in single beds; weekly rates are $350 per cottage. They are open year-round. On Rte. 385 at Riley Brook, ☎ 506/356-8351. ($-$$)

Mount Carleton Wilderness Camps offers lakeside cottages, some with cooking facilities. Some provide bedding, but for others you need to bring your own linens. They sleep from two to 10 persons and cost from $70 to $175 a night, depending on the facilities and the size. Some share an adjacent common bath and shower room. Canoe, kayak and bike rentals are available at the camps. For descriptions of each cabin, contact Tobique Nordic Adventure, 71 Hillcrest St., Plaster Rock, NB E7G 1V1; ☎ 506/356-8353, fax 506/356-8453, www.TobiqueNordic.com. You will need to reserve these well ahead. In Mount Carleton Provincial Park, ☎ 506/453-1443.

Le Marinier serves seafood dishes, along with the usual meat-and-potatoes fare. Restaurants are few in this thinly settled area, and this is the nearest one we have found to Mt. Carleton. Saint-Quentin, ☎ 506/235-3033. ($-$$)

For ice cream cones, stop at **Noyes Country Store**. They sell a little bit of everything, and have since their founding in 1908. Campers can buy ice here. Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. Rte. 17 in Robinsonville.

Centre Echo Restigouche is one of the few places you can stay on the banks of the Restigouche. Modern log cabins, with fully equipped kitchens, sleep eight people and are open year-round. They rent canoes, run canoe trips, and have access to the NB Snowmobile Trail network. Rte. 265 (PO Box 362), Kedgwick River, NB E0K 1C0, ☎ 506/284-2022, fax 506/284-2927. ($-$$)

■ Camping

Mount Carleton Provincial Park has nicely maintained campgrounds and four wilderness sites along the trails. The main campground at Armstrong Brook has hookups for RVs as well as showers and a kitchen shelter, while two smaller areas of eight and nine sites respectively have no facilities except toilets. Reservations are not accepted at any of these. Rates are $5 to $14. If you camp here, be sure to bring everything you need, since the nearest source of anything, including automobile fuel, is in Saint-Quentin, 25 miles away. (We learned this when we returned to our car after hiking in the park and found our tire flat.) The park office and entrance gates are open 7 am to 10 pm daily in the summer. ☎ 506/235-2025.

Kedgwick Park has 20 serviced and unserviced campsites, as well as attractive cottages. Rates are $10 for tents, $17 for trailers. An outdoor center provides guides for canoe trips on the Restigouche, as well as other activities. At the Kedgwick Forestry Museum, Rte. 17 (PO Box 224), Kedgwick, NB E0K 1C0, ☎ 506/284-3138.

The Acadian Coast

Golden beaches and clear waters warm enough for comfortable swimming mark the Acadian summers. Marshes and miles of uninterrupted bog provide nesting sites and migration stops for waterfowl and songbirds and the rivers run with fish. In winter the landscape is covered with the province's highest snowfalls, and the Bay of Chaleur freezes to extend the white world across to the shores of Québec's Gaspé Peninsula. Snowmobiles seem as common as cars, dogsleds travel through white forests, and you can buy fresh smelt caught through the ice on the Bay.

Geography & History

The **Bay of Chaleur** separates New Brunswick from the Gaspé Peninsula, and along the western end of its southern shore lie a string of beaches, backed by a narrow strip of settlements before the vast northern interior wilderness begins. Beaches continue east of Bathurst; this is where the Acadian Peninsula starts, sweeping upward between the Bay and the Gulf of St. Lawrence until it ends in Miscou Is-

land. South of Miscou, the shore is protected by a ribbon of barrier islands as it drops to Miramichi Bay, at the mouth of the Miramichi River.

The character of this coastal area is distinctly French. For the most part they are not the French of nearby Québec, but are descendants of the Acadians who were expelled from their farms in Nova Scotia in 1755. They moved here to begin anew, fishing, farming, and harvesting the peat that forms deep layers throughout much of the region. Signs, menus and conversation are likely to be in French, but this is bi-lingual New Brunswick, where the word "bi-lingual" means not that two different languages are spoken by the different people, but that both languages are taught in school and used in everyday life. If *merci* is the limit of your French, don't worry. They can change to English here in mid-sentence – and without making you feel language-disadvantaged.

Getting Around

You can reach the area from the north on **Rte. 11**, a continuation of Québec Rte. 132 from Mont-Joli to the border near Campbellton, and from northwestern New Brunswick, by **Rte. 17**, which leaves TransCanada-2 south of Edmundston and also goes to Campbellton. Most visitors arrive from the south, either from Fredericton via **Rte. 8** along the Miramichi, or from Moncton and the Nova Scotia border by **Rte. 11**.

Once in the region, you can follow Rte. 11 along the coast of the peninsula or cut across the sparsely-settled interior on Rte. 8, by far the fastest way to reach the north coast. Most arrive by car, except in the winter, when many visit the area on the vast network of snowmobile trails. Hotels and cabins are connected to the main trails by their own access trails; one, the Atlantic Host in Bathurst, lies right on the main trail, at its intersection with Rtes. 8 and 11.

Information Sources

Information is available from **Association Touristique de la Peninsule Acadienne**, Case Postale 5626, Caraquet, NB E1W 1B7, ☎ 506/727-4035.

You'll have to travel far to find a more enthusiastic and helpful staff than in the **Tourist Information Centre** on the town quay, at 51-H boulevard St-Pierre in Caraquet. The office is also filled with other resources, including a table covered in local menus, so you can browse for dinner and reserve a cruise or other Day Adventure at the same time. The office is open daily from early June to mid-September, 9 am to 9 pm; ☎ 506/726-2676.

Another **Day Adventure Centre** is at Younghall Beach in Bathurst, where you can sign up for a variety of watersports and boat excursions; ☎ 506/548-0797.

Information on the Dalhousie and Restigouche area is available at **Inch Aran Park**, 125 Inch Aran Ave., Dalhousie, NB E8C BC5, ☎ 506/684-7363.

For information on the Chaleur coast, contact **Tourisme Chaleur**, CP 89, Pointe-Verte, NB E0B 2H0, ☎ 506/783-1973.

You will find other local information offices, clearly marked from the main roads, in **Neguac** (☎ 506/776-8907), **Bathurst** (☎ 506/548-0418), and **Shippagan** (☎ 506/336-3013), and at Atlas Park in **Pointe-Verte**.

Adventures

■ On Foot

More than 100 km of walking trails have been created from former CN railway routes, stretching uninterrupted from Tracadie-Sheila to Grand Anse, with a side trail to the tip of Miscou Island. The trails intersect at Inkerman Ferry. In the summer a Trail Patrol is on hand to answer questions and insure safety for trail users, who include cyclists as well as walkers. Rest areas, picnic tables and signs interpreting local history and wildlife are in the process of being installed. Because of the terrain, some stretches of trail between Shippagan and Miscou are along the edge of the road.

Overlooking Bathurst from across the bay, **Daley Point Reserve** is a low waterside area with five walking trails through its 100 acres of fields, low woods and marshes, and an observation deck where you can see birds in the saltmarshes below. Names of the trails give a clue to their habitats: the Field Trail explores former farmland in the process of reverting to forest, the Saltmarsh Trail is a boardwalk for most of its length, and the Warbler Trail passes through alders and willows filled with songbirds. The most demanding is the White Pine Path, through a forest of early stage woodlands, with birch, spruce, cedar and poplar along with white pine. Thousands of Canada geese stop here during their fall migration. Daley Point is one of only four saltmarshes in the world with the rare Maritime ringlet butterfly. The reserve's less attractive (except to the birds, who find them quite tasty) winged wildlife are its abundant mosquitoes, so be prepared. From Caraquet, leave Rte. 11 in Janeville and take Promenade Carron along the shore. From Bathurst, turn left onto Promenade Carron from Bridge St. Signs point the way.

Another area rich in birdlife is **Miscou Island**, beyond Lamèque at the easternmost end of the region. The bogs and hundreds of lakes on the island were left by the retreating glacier, and attract resident birds to nest

and migrating waterfowl to stop en route. The entire island is a stopover, with over 250 breeding and migratory species reported.

One of the bogs has a boardwalk with interpretive signs explaining the natural history of the island and the life of a bog. Climb **Miscou Lighthouse**, built in 1856, for a wide-ranging view before walking along the beach to the point to see the waters of the Bay of Chaleur meet those of the Northumberland Strait. The sandy beach becomes a shingle of rounded stones washed here by the tides, but the walking is not difficult. The Miscou Island Lighthouse is very interesting, with historic photo displays on each landing. The climb is a relatively easy one because the lighthouse is so large; only the final section involves a steep climb). One of the oldest wooden lighthouses still in existence, in the 1940s it was moved farther back, to its present site, from a position that is now in the sea. Volunteers at the lighthouse may be people who grew up in fishing families or whose parents or grandparents were lighthouse keepers; each will have personal stories to tell of the island, the lighthouse and the rich birdlife you can see here. It's open 9 am to 7 pm daily, from mid-June through September.

FROM MOSCOW TO MISCOU

In April of 1939, a red twin-engine airplane from Moscow, bound for the New York World's fair, crash-landed on Miscou Island. It was hauled by barge to Halifax, Nova Scotia for repairs. You can see photographs in the lighthouse of the plane and its crew.

Easy to spot by its tall bird-viewing platform near the bridge on Rte. 313 in Lamèque is the **Lamèque Ecological Centre**. A long footbridge traverses the pond, with a blind at the end for viewing the rich birdlife – both resident and migrating – of this low wetland. At the end of the bridge, a trail enters a balsam forest, coming out onto clearings with benches overlooking the marsh. The trailside habitat is mostly low woodland, with twisted trees, ferns and deep beds of sphagnum, highlighted by clintonia and lady-slippers. In the open marshes, laurel and irises bloom in late June. The trail forms a 1½-mile (2.3 km) loop.

The **Tabusintac Lagoon** is formed where the estuary is blocked by a barrier beach, creating an important wetland and waterfowl habitat, especially busy during spring and fall migrations. A trail follows the shore of the estuary, leaving from Rte. 11 just opposite the intersection of Rte. 460. The trail is in two sections, divided by a short walk along the side of the road. A small park provides parking and a trail map (which is very hard to make sense of because it is upside-down in relation to the actual topography). The northern section of the trail begins here, while the southern is about 100 yards south. The first 10 minutes of the southern section is a linear trail, which leads to a loop trail, also about a 10-minute walk.

Ile-aux-Foins, off the east coast at Neguac, has hiking trails and boardwalks across the marsh, which is also a bird sanctuary. A bird-viewing platform overlooks the pebbly beach and the dunes. Boardwalks provide good access to the dunes, or you can walk along the beach. Follow rue Joseph from rue Principale (Rte. 11) to reach this island, where a municipal park also provides swimming and picnic facilities.

At **Beresford**, the newly opened **municipal park** includes a boardwalk over the saltmarsh with other trails, and an observation tower for viewing 54 bird species and the butterflies that frequent the marshes. An interpretation center explains the environment.

■ On Wheels

Sentiers Peninsule Acadienne is an association created to reclaim the abandoned CN railway routes, creating three separate level paths for bicycling and walking between Tracadie-Sheila, Grand Anse and Miscou Island. The trails intersect at Inkerman Ferry, where a rest area provides picnic tables and information. Some stretches of trail between Shippagan and Miscou are along the edge of the road, but the rest of the route passes through woods, fields, farmland, saltmarshes and bogs. For information, or to join the Trail Club, contact Sentiers Peninsule Acadienne at ☎ 506/727-4199.

A bridge has replaced the poky little red cable ferry that, until very recently, took cars to Miscou Island, beyond Lamèque off the eastern tip of the peninsula, but the island roads are still uncrowded by cars. The island is flat and perfect for bicycling, but be sure to bring a lunch, since eateries are few.

A separate bicycle lane runs along the side of Rte. 134 through several towns, and bicycle rentals are available at the Day Adventure Centre at Younghall Beach. The half-day rate is $15, hourly $5. Boat shuttles ($5) operate between Younghall Beach and the information center on St. Peter Ave., on the opposite side of the harbor, so you don't have to pedal back to the beach.

BICYCLE TOURING INFORMATION: The province has published an excellent pamphlet with maps and detailed directions for touring this area by bicycle using public streets and roads that have minimal through traffic. Suggested routes include a 31 km circle around the Maisonnette Peninsula near Caraquet, beginning at the Acadian Historical Village, and a circle tour of Lamèque Island. For a copy of the *Bicycle Tour Map and Guide*, contact Tourism New Brunswick at ☎ 800/561-0123.

GUIDED BICYCLE TOURS

■ For a guided bicycle tour of Caraquet, including bike and helmet rental, contact **T.F. Sport Impact**, 270 boul. St-Pierre Ouest, Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-2811. They also rent bicycles from their shop.

■ **Padek** at Camping Shippagan, ☎ 506/336-3960, can arrange bicycle tours throughout the area.

■ On Water

Beaches & Swimming

Miscou Island has some of the province's finest beaches, and even with the new bridge to speed up access, these natural beaches and dunes are seldom crowded. To find one, follow any road with "beach" in its title, or go to the lighthouse at the far end. **Adrien Gionet Beach**, on Rte. 113, has changing facilities and a snack bar.

To enjoy the waters of the Bay of Chaleur for swimming, look for **Youngall Beach Park** on Youngall Drive, off Rt. 134, 3 miles north of Bathurst. The park is free and has changing facilities. Note that Youngall is pronounced like the rental trucks: U-Haul.

Beaches line both the north shore along the Bay and the east shore along the Northumberland Strait. **Jacquet River Park** sits on a bluff above a sand and gravel beach, where there are full swimming facilities and a small campground. Between there and Belledune are sand dunes, and **Eel River Bar**, near Charlo, is a mile-long barrier sandbar with freshwater swimming on one side and saltwater on the other. **Beresford Beach** is backed by a long sand dune. A fine beach, but often almost deserted, is at **Anse Bleue** just off Rte. 11 on Rte. 303 near Caraquet. Or follow Rte. 303 farther to the protected beach at **Maisonnettte Park**. Youngall is the only beach on the north shore with a lifeguard; most require a modest parking or admission fee.

If the calm waters of the Bay of Chaleur aren't exciting enough for you, head for the eastern coast, where the more open waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence create bigger waves. The beach at **Val-Comeau Provincial Park** is one of the largest on the east coast, with a full mile of dune-backed white sand and some fine birding habitats to explore.

Ile-aux-Foins, in Neguac, has nice changing facilities and, although the oceanside beach is rocky, the one on the lagoon side is sandy and the water warms earlier in the season. The picnic area is in a lovely grove of birch, oak and maple trees and there is a playground. Follow rue Joseph from Rte. 11; the park is signposted.

When the weather is not suitable for beach-going, you can swim at the **Aquatic Centre**, at Inch Aran Park on the Dalhousie waterfront. The Centre is sponsored by the Dalhousie Rotary Club. Public swimming hours vary, but include most afternoons, with adult swimming every evening. Admission fees are $4.50 for adults, $2.50 for seniors and students. The pool is at 122 Inch Aran Ave., ☎ 506/684-7373.

LOCAL LORE: Perhaps the most unique experience on the waters of the Bay of Chaleur is one you can't plan ahead: seeing the ghost ship of Chaleur, a phantom ship in flames, so real that those who see its fiery masts and sails report it to the Coast Guard as a burning ship. This phenomenon, probably caused by reflected heat waves, is said to be the ghost of a French ship burned and sunk in the Battle of Restigouche in 1760. Another version says it's a pirate ship that went aground off the rocks here. Take your pick. Reports of the ship come from the entire length of the shore from Campbellton to Bathurst. It doesn't happen frequently, so we suggest a window table at La Fine Grobe sur-mer (see page 169) as a good place to wait.

Canoeing & Kayaking

The **Nepisiguit River** is a favorite place for paddling, with wooded banks on either side and salmon swimming under the canoe, but lakes and even the bay provide good canoeing waters, too. **Petit-Gadoo River Runs** in Nigadoo, ☎ 506/783-4553, 506/783-3649 or 506/547-4554, offers a variety of guided canoe trips, as well as canoe rentals and shuttle service. A three-hour excursion on a wilderness lake, with guide, instruction, transportation, canoe and equipment is $30 per person. A full day guided trip on the Nepisiguit River, with all equipment, instruction, transport and a seafood lunch is $55; a two-day trip is $75.

If you would like to try a canoe in saltwater, Petit-Gadoo guides can also take you to Bathurst Harbour to explore the littoral of the Bay of Chaleur in protected waters. Plan to begin your day there with the splendid sunrise views from the water. The bay trip is two hours and costs $20. Rentals of Old Town canoes begin at $10 for an evening; half-day rentals are $20, full-day is $30. Rental and shuttle for two days on a river starts at $45 per person.

You can put a kayak into the Bay of Chaleur during high tide at Inch Aran Park in Dalhousie, explore the shoreline and paddle through **Arch Rock**, a short distance east of the park. You will read references to kayak rentals at the park but, as we write, these have been suspended.

Shippagan sits inside a deep, protected bay, with islands you can explore in a handmade Inuit-style kayak. **Padek**, at Camping Shippagan, ☎ 506/336-3960, takes you through the Chaleur Islands after instruction on handling these ancestors of the modern kayak. You'll also learn about the bird and plant life of the shores you explore, and stop for a snack on one of the islands. Three-hour paddles are $40, or you can take an overnight trip.

At Caraquet you can rent kayaks from **Tours Kayaket**, at 51 boul. St-Pierre Est, ☎ 506/727-6309. A single kayak is $12 an hour, $30 a half-day and $45 a day. Doubles are double the price. Or you can join a group for a guided tour with a snack stop for $45.

Shorter, 90-minute kayak tours leave daily at two-hour intervals, from 8 am to 6 pm, at $15 each for single kayaks or $25 for a double. Moonlight kayak trips are by advance reservation and include an environmental program.

From the beach at Grand Anse, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday, you can rent kayaks or take a kayak excursion to see the cliffs and birds at **Pokeshaw Island**. Rentals are $35 a day for singles, $50 for doubles, half-days are $25 and $35, hourly rates are $8 and $12; ☎ 506/732-5776 or 732-2100.

On the northwest side of Miscou Island, at **Plage Miscou**, you can rent kayaks for $8 an hour. Per-hour rates drop with longer rentals. Plage Miscou, 22 Allee Alphonse (off Rte. 113), Miscou; ☎ 506/344-1015.

Follow Rte. 460 west from Rte. 11 at Wishart Point and follow signs to **WRVUBIN**, in Tabusintac (☎ 506/779-1913), where you can rent kayaks for $10 an hour, $30 a day or $20 for the evening after 5 pm. They have doubles, singles and canoes. They also offer a two-hour tour by canoe or kayak, including instruction and a lunch on the shore for $30 per person (or $50 per couple or $70 for a family of four). This experience, which can also be reserved as a Day Adventure, includes narration on Tabusintac history and ecology.

Harbor & Bay Tours

To explore the western end of the bay, take a cruise on ***Chaleur Phantom*** from the Dalhousie Marina, ☎ 506/684-4722 or 506/684-0898. Named for the legendary ghost ship, this very real boat specializes in narrated nature cruises to Heron Island, Miquasha Point (a rock formation on the Gaspé coast), Arch Rock and Bon Ami Rock, which is interesting for its seabirds. Heron Island and the Chaleur shore are particularly rich in birdlife. The boat departs daily at 9 am, 2 pm, and 7 pm, from mid-May to the end of September, rain or shine. The fare is $12 adult, $6 for children.

From Caraquet you can go on whale-watching trips aboard 12-passenger rigid-hulled boats originally designed for sea rescues. These are comfortable and protect passengers from the waves at the high speeds these boats

travel. The most commonly seen whale is the humpback, but blue whales, nearly twice the size of humpbacks, are found here, along with minke, fin and pilot whales. Three-hour trips with **Une-Mer-d'Adventures!**, ☎ 800/704-3966 or 506/727-2727, are $59 for adults, $36 for children under 12. You can tour the Gaspé shore to Perce Rock or take an evening cruise along the Acadian coast with them as well. Boats are in the water from mid-June to mid-September, and cruises are offered Monday through Friday.

The pontoon boat ***Vacanza*** makes short trips into the Bay of Chaleur to explore the oyster culture. The rate is a flat fee of $70 an hour for up to 12 people, or $35 for a half-hour trip. They leave from the information center on the quay in Caraquet; ☎ 506/727-6666 or 727-8686 for reservations.

For a Mississippi-style cultural and wildlife tour, take the **Cajun Cruise** on a paddlewheel riverboat. For $50 (children $25), you can enjoy a 2½-hour cruise that includes not only well-informed interpretation but also a full course meal with wine. Contact Charles Godin, ☎ 506/393-7756, or reserve through the Day Adventures program.

Diving

Atlas Park on Rte. 134 in Pointe-Verte, ☎ 506/783-3717, offers scuba diving in the crystal clear water of a 100-foot-deep quarry. On a Sunday in mid-July the park presents an "Introduction to Scuba Diving" program. The park is open weekend afternoons from mid-May to mid-June, and daily 8 am to 8 pm from mid-June through August. In the winter, the park offers scuba diving under the ice.

Le Club des Plongeurs les Oursins (Diving Club les Oursins) at Anse-Bleue, ☎ 506/732-5238, has programs for experienced divers. Two shipwrecks off the coast provide interesting dive sites.

Fishing

The Nepisiguit River flows northeast to its mouth in the Bay of Chaleur at Bathurst, and is another success story for the salmon enhancement program. It is now a scheduled salmon river, so you'll need a guide from **Petit-Gadoo River Runs** in Nigadoo, ☎ 506/783-4553, 506/783-3649 or 506/547-4554.

The lake at **Atlas Park** on Rte. 134 in Point-Verte, ☎ 506/783-3717, is stocked with trout, and you can fish there with your own equipment or rent some at the park. A special package program includes fishing for trout (all equipment is provided), a paddleboat excursion, and a trout dinner, where you can enjoy the fruits of your fishing experience. The package cost is $15 per adult, $10 per child. The park is open weekend afternoons from mid-May to mid-June, and daily 10 am to 10 pm from mid-June through August.

Nearby, **Dad's Fish Ponds**, at 17 Thompson St., on Rte. 11 at the outskirts of Charlo (☎ 506/684-3430) has two fishing ponds set in nicely kept grounds. They are open April through September and the fishing dock and facilities are handicapped-accessible.

Ile Caramer, a 45-foot diesel-powered boat, takes passengers fishing for cod and mackerel (with equipment provided) or on sunset tours along the Caraquet coast. Three fishing trips a day leave at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm from June through mid-September. These trips are shorter than deep-sea fishing excursions, but give a taste of the saltwater fishing experience. Boats leave from the Day Adventure Centre at Carrefours de la Mer in Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-0813. The two-hour trip is $15 for adults, and $7 per child.

For a fishing tour on the high seas, you can travel on the 40-foot boat of **Albain Landry**, which leaves from the quai in Anse-Bleue just west of Caraquet, ☎ 506/732-5232.

Chaleur Phantom at the Dalhousie Marina, ☎ 506/684-4722 or 600/277-0688, takes passengers on deep-sea fishing trips in the morning, with tackle and bait supplied, at $15 each or $20 per couple.

DAY ADVENTURE FISHING TOURS

The Day Adventures program offers a variety of three-hour fishing tours that all include the use of fishing and safety equipment. These tours are known for their success with mackerel and cod. You can reserve any of these through a Day Adventure center or directly with the captain.

■ **Captain Frank's Boat Tours Ltd.** (☎ 506/548-8810 or email captainfrank@yahoo.com), in Bathurst, offers the use of their rain gear as well, for $35 per adult ($15 ages seven-12, six and under free).

■ From the marina in Shippagan, Captain Michel Boudreau takes passengers aboard the ***Nord-d'est V*** each morning to fish for cod. The four- to five-hour trip costs $20 for adults, $10 for children 12 and under, and includes a light lunch and interpretation. The fish are cleaned and put on ice for travel after the trip. Look for the burgundy-colored boat in the marina near the Aquarium or reserve at ☎ 506/336-1880.

■ When out on ***La Petite Pinotte***, which leaves from the Petit-Shippagan wharf by the Miscou Island Bridge, you may be lucky enough to see a whale. Trips are $20 per person, $15 for children 12 and under. Contact Bernard Lanteigne ☎ 506/344-8686.

■ The fishing boat ***Golden Eagle*** departs the Quay de Miscou on a fishing tour for cod and mackerel, and to watch whales. You can

reserve a place on board by calling captain Raymond Lanteigne, ☎ 506/344-2369, 336-7806 or 344-6249.

■ On Snow & Ice

This is winter carnival country, with a schedule that begins at the Beresford Groundhog Festival in late January and early February, where you'll see elaborate ice sculptures. The next weekend is Pointe-Verte's ***Carnaval des Moules*** (Mussels Festival), followed by **Snowarama** and finishing with Bathurst's **Snowbear Winter Carnival** the last weekend in February.

Atlas Park in Pointe-Verte is open Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the winter, offering a variety of winter outdoor sports. On Friday and Saturday evenings their licensed snack bar serves steamed mussels. A day pass for use of any of their facilities is $2.50 for an adult, $1.50 for a child, ☎ 506/783-3717.

Skiing & Snowshoeing

Cross-country ski clubs make sure that trails are well-maintained in this region of heavy and frequent snowfalls. In Bathurst, the **Snow Bear Cross-Country Ski Club**, Golf St., ☎ 506/548-0437 (548-0410 out of season), has four trails with a total of 23 km; **Rough Waters Cross-Country Ski Club** on Rough Waters Drive, ☎ 506/546-9693, has 15 km. Both have canteens and organized activities. In Pointe-Verte, Atlas Park has a six-km cross-country trail. Open Friday and Saturday evenings, and Saturday and Sunday afternoons, they provide free portable lights for cross-country skiers. Ski rentals are $5 a day.

Le Club des Adventures, in Charlo (☎ 506/684-3453) has cross-country ski trails with 5, 15 and 30 kilometer loops. The center is a popular one for competitions because of its reliable snow cover in all but very light winters.

Auberge Les Amis de la Nature in nearby Robertville, ☎ 506/783-4797 or 800/327-9999, offers winter packages that include two nights lodging, breakfasts, dinner with wine (they specialize in organic foods from their own farm) and cross-country skiing for $249 a couple.

La Fine Grobe sur Mer in Nigadoo offers a package that combines fine dining with a chance to work off some of the calories by skiing the cross-country trails along the river or walking on the shore of the Bay of Chaleur. The cost is $170 per person, and includes two nights lodging, breakfasts, fondue and a full dinner in chef George Frachon's memorable dining room overlooking the frozen bay. You'll also get a discount on your wine (the list is excellent and moderately priced) and a chance to relax and talk with this fascinating chef/artist as you toast your toes in front of the fireplace, ☎ 506/783-3138, fax 506/783-4071.

Learn about the ancient peoples of this area as you showshoe on their trails with Micmac folklorist and historian Gilbert Sewell. In a half-day adventure divided between a snowshoe walk and a program of drumming and chanting, you will learn winter survival skills practiced here for thousands of years, and have a chance to sample traditional foods. The cost is $25 ($10 for those under age 16), and you can reserve with **Mui'n Adventures** in Pabineau Falls, near Bathurst, ☎ 506/548-1017.

Snowmobiling

In the heart of a network of 450 km of well-groomed trails, and with the province's highest snowfall, Bathurst is a center for snowmobiling. **Atlantic Host Inn**, ☎ 506/548-3335 or 800/898-9292, is the province's only hotel located directly on the trail network. Its owner, Keith DeGrace, is an avid snowmobile enthusiast himself. On/off loading ramps, a fueling area, heated repair bays, pressure wash, electric plug-ins, and equipment and machine rentals make the Atlantic Host a popular headquarters for this sport.

When we were there during a March blizzard, we were particularly impressed by the concern of the entire staff for the safety of those still on the trails. The owner himself left the motel at the height of the storm, about 10 pm, and was out looking for guests who had not checked in as expected. When he returned several hours later, having found the missing riders safe in a cabin along the trail, the entire place – guests, staff and locals in the busy lounge – heaved a sigh of relief and went to bed. At daybreak, with the storm finally subsided, the owner was in the lobby giving trail directions and advice to departing guests.

Atlantic Host offers snowmobile packages that include lodging, use of the snowmobilers' hospitality suite, storage and maintenance facilities, and trail breakdown assistance, for $62 a night for a double room. A guided three-hour trip with snowmobile and equipment, as well as lunch on the trail, is $85 per person from **Canada East Tours**, located at the Atlantic Host Inn, ☎ 506/548-3335 or 800/898-9292.

Danny's Inn and Conference Center has lodging packages for snowmobilers at about $65 a couple. Danny's maintains a groomed trail connecting the hotel to the provincial trail network. They are on Peters Ave (PO Box 180), Bathurst, NB E2A 3Z2, ☎ 506/546-6621.

New World Adventures in Dalhousie offers full-day snowmobile expeditions that cover trails in Québec's Gaspé, the Restigouche River, the Appalachian Range and the Acadian coast in one day's travels. Snowmobile suits, machines and other equipment are included, along with lunch, at $260 per person, ☎ 506/684-1020, fax 506/684-5340.

For a package that includes a night's lodging with breakfast, a trail lunch, dinner, and snowmobile rental, call the **Best Western Manoir Adelaide** in Dalhousie, ☎ 506/684-1020, fax 506/684-5340. The cost, based on dou-

ble occupancy, is $135 per person. You may also book a guided trip; snowmobile suit rentals are available separately.

Visiting snowmobilers may want to contact **Nepisiguit Sport Lodge** south of Bathurst, ☎ 506/548-9174. This very active snowmobile club maintains 350 miles of trails and organizes events throughout the winter, including the Snowarama and the Atlantic CAN-AM Challenge, the main racing event in the Maritime provinces.

In other parts of the region, lodging packages for snowmobilers are available through **Heron's Nest Cottages**, Box 50, Charlo, NB E0B 1M0, ☎ 506/684-3766, fax 506/684-3850; **Motel Boudreau**, PO Box 3359, Tracadie-Sheila, NB E1X 1G5, ☎ 506/395-2244 or 800/563-2242; and **Motel Beauséjour** and **Chez Raymond Restaurant**, PO Box 74, Neguac, NB E03 1S0, ☎ 506/776-8718, fax 506/776-5462.

Sport Action 2000 in Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-5567, offers a package that includes one night's lodging with breakfast, a snowmobile, equipment and insurance, instruction and a guided tour of the Acadian coast and forests at $295 per couple sharing a snowmobile, $260 each with two machines. Or you can combine snowmobiling with ice fishing on a full day 60-mile excursion, stopping to cook the catch of the day for lunch. Depending on the season, this will be smelt or trout, but either way, nothing tastes as good as lunch you've caught fresh and cooked outdoors.

New World Adventures in Dalhousie offers full-day snowmobile expeditions that combine Québec's Gaspé, the Restigouche River, the Appalachian Range and the Acadian coast into one jam-packed experience. Snowmobile suits, machines and other equipment are included, as well as lunch, for $260 per person, ☎ 506/684-1020, fax 506/684-5340.

Dogsledding

With all this snow, Bathurst is also a prime place for dogsledding, and an excellent outfitter maintains kennels and sleds for guided excursions. You will drive your own team, but with plenty of help and instruction from the upbeat and enthusiastic owners of these teams of huskies, which can hardly contain themselves to do what they enjoy most – running through the snowy woods with a sled in tow.

Bob and Ann Metzler, of **Teagues Lake Dogsledding**, ☎ 506/548-9136, www.angelfire.com/nb/teagueslake, keep a kennel full of Siberian huskies, malamutes and two other original breeds of sled dogs that make up their teams. The Metzlers will tell you a bit about the psyche of these beautiful dogs. A three-hour excursion ($75) takes you along wooded trails and roads to a lake, where you and the team both get a rest and you get a lunch of homemade soup, in front of a big campfire. A family of four (two adults and two children age 12 and under) can have a two-hour sled trip and a meal for $195. A full day of sledding is $150 per person.

Teagues also offers packages, called "Le Pack," that include lodging at Keddy's Le Château in Bathurst, breakfast and a three-hour dogsled trip with lunch, at $250 for a family of four. For a real dogsledding adventure, sign on for an overnight trip with Teagues, where you will sleep at night in a winter-hardy tent with a wood heater or in a cozy cabin in the woods, meals included. Each person drives a sled, and the ratio of guides to clients is one-to-one, at $350 for a one-night trip, $1,000 for a three-day trip. This one is a labor-intensive learning experience, where each person not only handles his own team on the trail, but takes care of the dogs as well, feeding and harnessing them. "After this trip," Bob laughs, "You could run the Iditerod."

If you are near Teagues in a season when there's no snow on the ground, they welcome visitors on tours of the kennels by advance reservation. In a one-hour tour ($5), you not only meet the dogs and learn about the history of the four breeds represented there (one of which is of Inuit origin), but you will learn about how these dogs think, behave and interact with each other and with humans. Handling sled dogs, Bob points out, teaches a lot about how all dogs interact with their human friends: "I learn a lot more from them than they learn from me."

GOING TO THE DOGS: Although each winter is different, dogsledding season usually lasts from mid-December to mid-April. Dog teams and onlookers from all over gather in the area when the Bathurst Mushers Club has its annual Dog Sled Race in late January. If you're there, be sure to cheer for our friend Frank Vienneau and his team.

ON-THE-TRAIL LEARNING

The enthusiasm of five handsome huskies, literally jumping up and down in place in their excitement to be off and running, would have been more contagious if we'd been more evenly matched. They knew where they were going and how to get there in the fastest, most exciting way possible. This was, I feared (and rightly), at top speed, with or without me hanging on and trying to remain upright. *I*, on the other mittened hand, had never actually driven my own sled. I'd been a happy passenger once, in Finland, sitting on the sled at ground level, wrapped in woolly blankets while someone who spoke the same language as the dogs did the mushing.

The differences were apparent at once. First, of course, was the view – the old saying is right: unless you're the lead husky, the view's pretty much the same. The view was better standing up. How to stay standing up turned out to be the problem, as I released my tether and my team and I took off at just slightly under mach-1. I think we were going through a low pine forest, but the trees were moving so fast they could have been a herd of moose for all I could see. On the back of the sled, where I was, there's no platform to stand on; each boot is, supposedly, planted firmly on a runner, which allows the musher to steer by shifting weight from one to the other. But when you're having trouble keeping boots on two narrow slippery sticks, balance and steering are little niceties easily lost.

The answer seemed to be to slow the team down, but using the brake required lifting one foot. That changed my already precarious balance and that of the sled, and caused it to go sliding off the trail at an alarming angle which made keeping the other foot on its runner almost impossible. Forget that. Meanwhile I yelled things to my dogs, who clearly spoke only French and misinterpreted anything I said to mean "mush" or "can't you guys move it any faster?" They yipped back agreeably and sped up. When I finally decided that this had to stop – or I would just fall off and be left there in the snow by a team that would continue on happily right across the frozen Bay of Chaleur and into Québec without me, I did the only possible thing. I hung on for dear life and jumped on the brake with both feet.

Bad move. The sled stopped and, being tied to the sled, the dogs stopped. I didn't, and narrowly missed becoming lead dog myself.

A few tips ahead of time may save you a similar ignominy. First, if, like me, you don't love high speeds, mention it to your outfitter. And second, tell him how much you weigh. These nice New Brunswick gentlemen would never ask a lady's weight, especially one who's wrapped in so many layers of down and insulation that she looks like the broad side of a barn. So if you're a tall lightweight like me, they'll over-estimate. I had, it turned out, one dog too many for my combined weight and ineptitude. One husky fewer and a reminder about how to slow down by dragging my heels, and I was off and running at a kinder, gentler pace. I could actually identify trees as I passed. – *Barbara Radcliffe Rogers*

Sliding Hills & Sleigh Rides

Sliding hills are maintained by **Snow Bear** (☎ 506/548-0437) and **Les Joyeux Copains** (☎ 506/783-2959), cross-country ski clubs in Bathurst and Petit-Rocher respectively; Atlas Park has a sliding hill as well. If you prefer to have a horse, instead of gravity, pulling your sled, sleigh rides are offered in Pointe-Verte by **Remi Guitard** (☎ 506/783-8985) and by **La Pourvoirie de la Dauversiere** in Petit-Rocher (☎ 506/783-8081).

Skating, Diving & Ice Fishing

The frozen pond at **Atlas Park** becomes a giant skating rink in the winter and both **Snowbear** (☎ 506/548-0437) and **Les Joyeux Copains** (☎ 506/783-2959) cross-country clubs have lighted skating rinks at their chalets. Indoor skating is available at the rinks in the **K.C. Irving Regional Centre in Bathurst**, ☎ 506/547-0410. Family skating on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings is $2 each with a maximum of $5 per family; adult skating Wednesday and Sunday evenings is $3, teen skating on Saturday evening is $2, children's skating on Saturday afternoon is $2 and senior skating on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings is $1. Noon-hour skating on Monday, Wednesday and Friday is open to adults only, at $3 each.

If you enjoy watching ice sports, the Centre also has figure skating competitions, ice shows, hockey, and the Scottish sport of curling. The **Groundhog Carnival** in Beresford includes a curling tournament.

If being under the ice sounds like fun, go to **Atlas Park**, where you can scuba dive in the quarry hole for $6 a day. See *On Water*, page 152. To try your luck at ice fishing, join **Sport Action 2000** for a guided snowmobile and fishing trip. See *Snowmobiling*, page 156, for their contact information.

■ On Horseback

Mountainbrook Stables in Dalhousie (☎ 506/826-2992) offers the Day Adventure "Ride the Frontier," which includes a half-hour of instruction, 2½ hours of riding, and a lunch for $40 per person (ages 12 and over only). The stables also offer one- and two-hour trail rides, as well as children's rides.

Ecuries Kenny, operated by Gilles Kenny, at Six Roads, north of Tracadie; ☎ 506/395-3165, offers horseback riding as well.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

A great part of the cultural attraction of the area stems from its rich Acadian French past – and present. Caraquet is 97% Francophone, and you can join in celebrating the town's French-ness at its annual Acadian Festival in mid-August, highlighted by the Blessing of the Fleet. Caraquet's harbor is still active, and even more colorful than usual on this occasion.

Nearby Shippagan's waterfront is even larger, with an active fishing fleet which, from early May until mid-summer, returns each day to unload (and sell to those who meet them at the wharves) their catch of crabs. The **Blessing of the Fleet** is on the second Sunday of July, and is as lively as Caraquet's.

Smaller **fishing wharves** at Pointe-Verte, Petit-Rocher, Salmon Beach and Stonehaven are good places to buy fresh seafood, too. Look for lobster during May and June, scallops from May through October, and mussels in the winter. You will also see signs for fresh smelt, although you can't buy them at the wharves during the winter, when local people catch them through the ice. Check at the wharves for a fishing boat willing to take you out for a day to watch them at work. It's much more fun – and more interesting – than a tour on a cruise boat.

For more views of local fishing, take Rte. 113 from Shippagan to the islands of Lamèque and Miscou. At Pigeon Cove, on the eastern side, you'll find a small fishing harbor filled with brightly painted boats. Just before you get to the harbor, in the town itself, stop to look at the old capstans that used to haul boats ashore. Where the road makes an elbow turn to the left, follow the lane straight ahead, past the fence. Nearer the harbor, you'll see peat being harvested.

With the decline of the ocean fisheries, the Atlantic provinces have looked to cultivating their own seafood, especially salmon and shellfish. Caraquet has become a center of oyster farming, and the Caraquet oyster is recognized as one of the best, for its white flesh and delicate flavor.

Musée de Huitre, Ferme Ostreicole Dugas, at 675 Saint-Pierre Ouest (Rte. 11) in Caraquet (☎ 506/727-3226), is a museum in the general store operated by the Dugas family. Nearly everything here relates in some way to this prominent family of oyster fishermen. Superb terra cotta sculptures depict the Dugas grandparents in the store, and others show scenes of oyster fishing. These unique statues, created just for this museum, were chosen for an exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Signs are in English, so visitors can learn about the natural history of the oyster and the human history of taste for this mollusk since the days of the ancient Greeks and Romans. We like the "then and now" aspect of the museum, with plenty of information on historical oystering right there in one of the area's best seafood markets. The museum is open 9:30-5:30, Monday-Saturday, from May through late November; admission is free.

DID YOU KNOW? Why oysters are placed on a bed of rock salt after they are opened? It allows the oyster to produce its second juices, making them tastier and increasing their nutritional value.

The tiny wooden **Chapel of Sainte-Anne-du-Bocage**, west of Caraquet on Rte. 11, has only six pews and was founded in memory of the Acadian settlers. The Source is a water fountain where local people go for a drink at sunset. The chapel is open daily 9 am to 9 pm, and is the site of a pilgrimage on the third week of July each year. On August 15, you may find special religious observances in French areas for the **Feast of the Assumption**, the national fête of Acadians.

The **Village Historique Acadien**, on Rte. 11 west of Caraquet, ☎ 506/726-2600, www.villagehistoriqueacadien.com, is one of the most engaging and best-conceived living history museums we have ever immersed ourselves in. Once inside, visitors are drawn into the lives of the early French settlers, but in an easy way without the artifice of "role-playing" interpreters who pretend to be unaware of the modern world. Instead, the costumed men and women who go about the tasks of everyday life – baking bread, drying fish, tending farm animals, planting gardens, splitting shingles, printing a newspaper, forging tools or weaving fabric – can discuss their work in a modern context that makes it far more relevant and understandable.

The rambling village is a photographer's dream, with original historic homes, barns and shops saved from various parts of the region and placed in natural village and farm settings, without directional signs to get in the way of pictures. Each visitor is given an excellent illustrated map, so there's no problem finding your way. Smooth roadways lead through the village for walkers and for the horse-drawn wagons that offer rides from point to point.

Different areas of the village show the buildings and lifestyles of different periods, ending with the newest, where the focal point is a stunning full-scale replica of a 1910 hotel that once drew fashionable tourists to Caraquet. The hotel is open "again" with authentically costumed staff – down to the high-buttoned shoes – and painstakingly reproduced furnishings. A stay there is like stepping back a century, but without sacrificing the comforts of today. Following the original architectural and decorating plans of the hotel, the bathrooms are down the wide hallway.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTE: The Village Historique Acadien sets aside a special weekend in June (usually the second weekend, but call to check) when they construct ramps into all the houses, provide special transportation and plan events just for visitors with impaired mobility.

One of the highlights at the village in the afternoon is to watch fat loaves of bread carefully removed from the outdoor oven at the Cyr farm. The hot bread, slathered with fresh-made butter, is offered to those who visit the house. Loaves are taken to the gift shop for sale, arriving at about 4 pm.

To complete the experience, we suggest having lunch at **La Table des Ancêtres**, where full meals of Acadian dishes are served between 11:30 and 4 ($). Hearty *poutine rapée*, pot roast, sugar pie and other traditional Acadian dishes are described in either French or English by the costumed waitresses.

The village is open daily from early June through early September, 10 am to 6 pm; after that, through mid-October, 10 am to 5 pm daily. Admission is $12 for adults, $6 for children ages six-16, $8 for students over 18, and $10 for seniors. Family admission is $30.

KID FRIENDLY: The children's program at Village Historique Acadien allows visiting youngsters to become part of a village "family" for a day, dressed in a traditional costume; the $16 fee includes lunch, an authentic Acadian meal that the children help prepare. English speakers are introduced as a "cousin from the States." Although parents do not take part in the program, most enjoy following the activities during the day (from 9 am to 4 pm) to photograph their children in costume as they play old-fashioned games or learn traditional crafts and skills. Reserve a place for your child – ages eight-16 – by calling the museum or through the Day Adventures program.

For a more traditional museum view of early Acadian life, visit the **Musée Acadien**, 15 boul. St-Pierre Est, PO Box 292, Caraquet, NB E1W 1B7, ☎ 506/726-2682. Two floors of exhibits show the daily lives of Acadians from their arrival in 1755 until the early 1900s. An interactive computer helps interpret the exhibits. As at the Acadian Village, most of the artifacts in the museum were donated by local families – often valued heirlooms – in order to create a record of their ancestors' lives for the whole community to share. The fishing exhibit is especially well done, featuring a dory, shuttles for net-making and a video of 1947 films taken in a fish-processing shed and of a procession blessing the lobster fleet.

The museum is open in May, June and September, Monday through Friday, 10-6; in July and August, Monday through Saturday, 10-8 and Sunday, 1-6 pm. Admission is $3 for adults, $2 for seniors and free for children.

To hear Acadian songs of the sea, join folklorist-song writer and performer **Donat Lacroix** for an evening on board the *Jos-Fredric*, the boat he built himself. Anchored at the quay in Caraquet, the boat serves as the stage for a lively two-hour program, beginning at 8 pm, Monday through Saturday. Buy your tickets at the adjacent Tourist Information center, $18 adults, $15 students; ☎ 506/726-2676.

The First Nation at Eel River Bar near Dalhousie is in the process of creating an **Aboriginal Heritage Garden,** with examples of plants used by the Micmacs and others for medicine, food, textiles and ceremonial uses. The garden's purpose is to help modern Indians and others understand the deep relationship between the native peoples and the native plants, as well as to record and research the traditional uses of plants while the knowledge is still alive. Interactive displays are planned and visitors are welcome during the garden's development. The garden is at 11 Main St., Eel River Bar First Nation, ☎ 800/3-WIGWAMS or fax 506/684-6238.

The **Aquarium and Marine Centre**, Rte. 113, Shippagan, ☎ 506/336-3013, mixes the human and natural history of the sea in a nicely presented series of displays and interactive exhibits. You can stand in the wheelhouse of a state-of-the-art fishing boat and learn about fishing rivalries that began in the 11th century, or watch fascinating native fish species in giant tanks. Smaller tanks present small species of fish and other sea life up close. At 11 am and 4 pm the seals have lunch and dinner, a show you're sure to enjoy. Admission is $5.50 for adults; $2.25 for children ages six-18; family, $10.70. The center is open daily, 10 am to 6 pm, May through September.

Bathurst has a **City Farmers' Market** on Saturday from 9 to 1 year-round at 150 Main St., ☎ 506/546-2162. Look for local produce, honey, syrup, jams, jellies and pickles, as well as crafts, both here and at the **Bathurst Farmers' Market**, near the Exhibition Building next to Coronation Park. It's also open Saturday mornings, but only from May to November, ☎ 506/548-4733.

Or take a tour of a goat farm and see how cheese is made from their milk (with samples, of course). **Les Blancs d'Arcadie**, 340A boul. St-Pierre Est, Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-5952, fax 506/727-7379, offers children a chance to pet baby goats, foals and bunnies. Tours are given as part of the Day Adventures program as well as through the farm from June 1 through November 1. Held in any weather, tours last 1½ hours and cover all of the stages of production, ending with a milk and cheese tasting. The cost is $7 per person, and you should make a reservation.

KID FRIENDLY: At the **Ferguson Farm**, on Rte. 322 in Robertville (near Bathurst), children can meet a variety of birds, including a parrot and a talking crow. Available as a Day Adventure, a tour of the farm includes interactive time with the birds, a chance to learn more about feathers and eggs, and games to test everyone's knowledge of these feathery new friends. The cost is $5 adults, $2 for ages 12 and under; reserve through a Day Adventure Centre or at the farm, ☎ 506/783-3576.

Bob and Ann Metzler, of **Teagues Lake Dogsledding**, ☎ 506/548-9136, www.angelfire.com/nb/teagueslake, keep a kennel full of Siberian huskies, malamutes and two other original breeds of sled dogs that make up their teams. You can visit these appealing dogs throughout the year on a one-hour tour ($5) by advance reservation. You'll not only meet the dogs and learn about the four breeds represented there (one of which is of Inuit origin), but you will learn about the psyche of these interesting animals and how they interact with each other and with humans. It's an experience for dog lovers, and goes far beyond a kennel tour.

■ Natural Areas

Pokeshaw Community Park, just west of Grand Anse on Rte. 11, has a dramatic sea stack, a giant piece of shoreline that was cut off and made into an island by the sea's constant abuse. From the lookout you can see the thousands of cormorants that cover the entire crown of the stack. You can see even the fledglings clearly with binoculars. From the far left end of the fence you can see a point with a round hole worn through the rock by the sea. At low tide you can walk to the base of the sea stack from the beach below the observation point. The park is open for picnics 9 am to 9 pm daily; go at sunset for fine views of the stack silhouetted against the evening sky.

To see blue herons, scan the marshlands along Rte. 134 between Jacquet River and Charlo, or take a boat to **Heron Island**, where many other species nest or rest.

The **Tabusintac Lagoon and estuary** is an important wetland and waterfowl habitat, especially important during spring and fall migrations when thousands of birds, including scoters, eider, scaup, brant, black ducks, Canada geese, teal and widgeon stop there. The beach is the nesting site for as many as 3,700 common terns, which is one of the largest concentrations in the province. Piping plover nest in the barrier beach and the area also supports colonies of great blue herons and ospreys. A trail along the shore of the estuary provides some good viewpoints, leaving from Rte. 11 just opposite the intersection of Rte. 460.

From Inch Aran Park, at the waterfront in Dalhousie, you can walk long the beach at low tide to see **Arch Rock**, where the constant work of the tides has worn a hole through a freestanding piece of shore cliff. It's about a five-minute walk. You can also explore the rock – even paddle through it – by kayak, putting in at high tide from Inch Aran Park.

As rivers drop from the inland mountains, you'll find two large waterfalls near Bathurst. To find **Pabineau Falls**, turn south from Rte. 134 onto Rte. 430 and, in about four miles (7 km), left onto Pabineau Reserve Rd.. Continue after the pavement ends (the road is wide and the surface good) until you see and hear the falls on your left. Pabineau Falls is dramatic both for the volume of water and for the length of the series as the river plunges from pool to pool through narrow chutes. The walls of the gorge are quite steep at the bottom, but there are several good places from which to photograph the falls from below. The light is best in the afternoon. This is a pleasant place for a picnic, but not a place to swim. Heading west from Bathurst on Rte. 180 for about 6½ miles (11 km), you'll find **Tetagouche Falls** in South Tetagouche. A higher waterfall than Pabineau, this one drops into a gorge through walls of ragged rock. The steep trail down to the falls from the end of the parking lot gives you a clue to the depth of the gorge. It was once dammed, and you can just see the broken remnants of the stonework above the falls. To the left you can see the

remains of the sluiceway through the rock, part of a copper mine that was once here. The water through this sluice once turned a wheel 30 feet in diameter. After the steep climb back up, you'll appreciate the fresh water from the spring beside the parking lot. A few tree-shaded picnic tables are nearby.

Amateur geologists shouldn't miss the chance to explore the fossil cliffs and beach at **Crystal Cave Fossil Adventures**, 82 Smith Rd. in Belledune; ☎ 506/522-5508. After seeing example of fossils found along this shore displayed in the Fossil Shack, visitors can explore the Quinn's Point fossil site and the Crystal Cave on their own, or join the daily guided tour to another site. The low cliffs along the shore are formed of thin layers of red and gray stone. As the sea chips away at the cliffs and fossils are torn away, the tides toss and wear them, so those found on the shore have smooth waterworn shapes. The times of these tours and cliff access are governed by the tide. Each takes about an hour, and the admission is $5 for adults, $2 for students, under age six free. Visitors are welcome to bring picnics to enjoy on the beach.

Sightseeing

The entire area is Roman Catholic, as you will guess from the number of churches and shrines you see. The **Musée de Papes**, or Popes Museum, on Rte. 11 in Grande-Anse (☎ 506/732-3003), covers the religion in general and the popes in particular. Among the displays is a large model of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and exhibits on the religious orders that served in the area, as well as collections of church plates and vestments. It's open from early May to early September.

Mining of the minerals and metals discovered along the Acadian shore brought a mining boom that has evolved into a mainstay of the local economy. **Mining World** on Rte. 134 in Petit-Rocher (☎ 506/783-0824), teaches about the process of locating and extracting minerals from the earth and refining them for commercial use. Children enjoy the elevator, which simulates a descent into a mineshaft 2,800 feet below the surface. Other exhibits are interactive, too, with tests to determine the hardness of several minerals, and games to identify rock specimens and to show their specific gravity. The center is open daily, June through August, 10-6.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTE: Most of Mining World is wheelchair-accessible.

The history of the Restigouche region is told at the **Restigouche River Museum**, at Adelaide and George streets in Dalhousie, ☎ 506/684-7490. Exhibits show the various cultural influences here: Micmac, French, Acadian, Scottish and British. Shipbuilding, lumbering, agriculture, railways, the early traders and settlers, fishing, and the geology of the coast

are all covered. The fossil exhibit is quite useful for those who are interested in fossil hunting, with information on the plants and insects of the Devonian period that are found from Dalhousie to Atholville (near Campbellton). The fossils show that this was once the rich tropical marine environment of a coral reef. All labels are in both French and English. An excellent shop has crafts and a lot of books on the history and culture of the region. The museum is open daily in the summer; call for times.

> **TIP:** To follow the correct chronological sequence of the displays at the Restigouche River Museum, go to the left as you enter the exhibits.

In the town of Neguac, the **Otho-Robichaud House**, at the corner of Rte. 11 and Otho St., is in the process of painstaking restoration. It is thought to be the oldest Acadian house in the province still standing on its original site. Built about 1800, it was the home of a local justice of the peace who, although Acadian, was a man of great influence. Restoration was still in progress when we were last there, but if someone's there working on the house, they may be able to show you through.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

Miscou Island Lighthouse (see page 147) has a small display by local craftspeople, who sell their work here. Among these are sculptures made of cast sand, called Island Beach Sand, realistic figurines representing the lighthouse, ducks, shells and lobsters, priced from $3.25 to $18.95 (☎ 506/344-8383). You will also be tempted by the sweets offered by local chocolatier **Maison de Yolande**, ☎ 506/344-5843, open 9 am to 7 pm daily, from mid-June through September.

Village Historique Acadien, on Rte. 11 west of Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-3467, sells early craft reproductions, books on the Acadians and, at 4 pm daily, crusty wheat bread fresh and still warm from the outdoor ovens of the village.

Rarely in our travels do we see an art form or a craft that combines the vision of an artist, the skill of a craftsman, the eye of a naturalist and the creativity of an inventor. We found it in the small studio of **Jean Caissie**, on Rte. 313, opposite the parish church in Lamèque (☎ 506/344-0116). So lovely are his dimensional wooden interpretations of Canadian wildlife that we were incapable of leaving empty-handed. Eagles soar among clouds, their wings moving in graceful rhythms that approach perpetual motion. Some of the works are freestanding, but most are mobiles, featuring either geese or eagles, each rendered in inlaid natural woods of different grains and colors to suggest their feather patterns. Prices begin at $10 for a Canada goose or a flying eagle with a fish in its beak; you'll pay more for the highly complicated birds, some of which may have as many as 50

different pieces of inlaid wood. The white poplar head of a bald eagle, priced at $100, is from a piece of wood more than 4,000 years old, pulled from a local bog. The works break down to become nearly flat for shipping or carrying home.

Rural Riches Boutique, in the information center at Inch Aran Park in Dalhousie, has an excellent selection of locally made crafts, including some very unusual shelves in the shape of half a boat and a perfect miniature of a canoe to be used as a coffee table; ☎ 506/684-7363.

Restigouche River Museum, at Adelaide and George streets in Dalhousie, ☎ 506/684-7490, has a very nice shop, with well-chosen local crafts. These include handmade wooden boxes, pottery, custom soaps and books on local history, culture and food. The shop is open daily in the summer, shorter hours the rest of the year.

■ Festivals & Events

Lamèque, an island east of Shippagan, is the scene of a major **International Festival of Baroque Music** in mid-July, with performances by artists from all over the world. For a schedule and tickets, contact the festival at C.P. 644, Lamèque, NB E0B 1V0, ☎ 506/344-2296.

In early July, Shippagan's docks are the scene of the **Blessing of the Fleet** as part of a week-long seafood festival. ☎ 506/336-8726.

Also in July, Bas-Caraquet celebrates its fishing and seafood heritage with a definite environmental focus, during its ***Festival Marin***. ☎ 506/726-2676.

July also brings ***Festival Bon Ami***, which gives Dalhousie an excuse for a big beach party with a craft market and fireworks. ☎ 506/684-7363.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ The North Coast

Atlantic Host Inn is located directly on the Provincial Snowmobile Trail network, with loading ramps, a fueling area, heated repair bays, and other special facilities for snowmobilers in the winter. But it's just as nice a place to stay in the summer, with an indoor pool, sauna, recreation room, and courtesy bicycles for guests' use. The Brass Horn Lounge is a lively gathering place, and Ambiance ($-$$), the attractive dining room, is reliably good and reasonably priced. It is open for three meals every day, and serves a popular $2.99 breakfast (that's $2 in US dollars). Vanier Blvd. at Rte. 11, Bathurst, NB E2A 4H7, ☎ 506/548-3335 or 800/898-9292. ($$)

Danny's Inn and Conference Center off Rte. 134 north of downtown Bathurst, is a full-service hotel with a heated pool, tennis courts, playground, and dining room ($-$$). Peters Ave (PO Box 180), Bathurst, NB E2A 3Z2, ☎ 506/546-6621. ($$)

La Fine Grobe sur-mer overlooks the shore in Nigadoo, immediately west of the Nigadoo River bridge. The view over the bay is beautiful as the sky and water change colors in the evening, and the food is magnifique. The chef/owner uses the freshest and most wholesome ingredients, some of which he grows in his little seaside garden; he even bakes the bread in a traditional clay oven behind the restaurant. This is such a warm, romantic place; one winter evening we counted three couples leaning over their tables to kiss while we were lingering over our espresso and raspberry cobbler. We always begin dinner with the chef's pâté, letting its perfume linger on the back of our tongues while we read the two pages of entrée

choices. The chef offers salmon in three styles, and has as many ways with scallops. The requisite fisherman's platter is panfried in butter, not deep-fried. On the other side of the menu are two cuts of lamb, two choices of rabbit, roasted chicken breast with mustard sauce and several beef preparations. Frogs legs and snails, too often the victims of so much garlic that their delicate flavors are lost, are treated gently here, and the garlic keeps its place as a seasoning. The lamb leg is roasted in the big bread oven outside, and carries a hint of smokiness in its rich flavor. Cod is braised with morels and salmon tail filet is prepared with three different kinds of peppercorns. The espresso is hot and the decaf brewed to order; the wine list is varied, about half French, and priced from $17 a bottle, with nearly two dozen selections in the $20s. Open daily from noon to 10 pm. Two simple rooms over the restaurant, with private baths, comprise the B&B, priced under $60. 289 Rue Principale (PO Box 5605), Rte. 134 (PO Box 5605), Nigadoo, NB EK8 3Y5, ☎ 506/783-3138, www.finegrobe.com. ($$-$$$)

Auberge D'Anjou has six stylish bath-en-suite rooms in the main house, including a Victorian bridal suite and another designed for families, with two baths. A former convent adjacent to the inn has been renovated to add 10 more rooms, more simply appointed. Tiny but lush room number one in the main house is our favorite, with its Victorian bathtub discreetly hidden behind a lace-covered screen that hints at the romantic and slightly risqué. The pencil-post queen-sized bed has a netted canopy. Now that the restaurant is under separate ownership, we'd skip the tepid breakfast served here (and included in the room rate) and head for Au Café Gourmet in Bathurst instead. 587 rue Principal (Rte. 134), Petit-Rocher, NB E0B 2E0, ☎ 506/783-0587, fax 506/783-5587. ($-$$)

Auberge Les Amis de la Nature is not just a place to stay, but a 46-acre nature center with trails for walking, skiing or snowshoeing, and places to watch birds and stars. Meals are prepared from the fruits of their own organic garden, including naturally raised chickens. Chemin Lincour, Robertville, NB ☎ 506/783-4797 or 800/327-9999. ($-$$)

Heron's Nest Cottages are newly built, modern and well spaced in their nicely kept grounds beside Rte. 134. Each has a fully equipped kitchen (with toaster and microwave) as well as and a wide front porch. The supervised beach is just across the road and a bicycle trail passes the front doors of the cabins. 6 Rue Chaleur, Box 50, Charlo, NB E0B 1M0, ☎ 506/684-3766, fax 506/684-3850. ($$-$$$)

Best Western Manoir Adelaide is a full-service hotel with a restaurant. 385 Adelaide St., Dalhousie, NB E0K 1B0, ☎ 506/684-1020, fax 506/684-5340. ($$)

Brochetterie Le Vieux Moulin serves charcoal-grilled fish, other seafood dishes, and steaks in what was the area's first grain mill, built in 1850. The restaurant also has a wide selection of Greek specialties, with several en-brochette options, including two designed for children's appetites. Rte. 134, Nigadoo, ☎ 506/783-3632. ($$)

Downtown Kitchen serves hearty breakfasts, fried chicken, sandwiches and fried seafood dinners. Open Sunday through Wednesday, 7 am to 11 pm (in the winter they close at 10 pm), and Thursday through Saturday, from 7 am to 3 am. 418 Williams St., Dalhousie; ☎ 506/684-1101. ($)

Brothers and Sisters Coffee House serves Swiss water-processed decaf (it's hard enough to find any decaf in smaller places here, so this is a particular treat), along with specialty coffees, tea, sandwiches, pastries and fruit juices. The café is open 6:30 am to 11 pm in the summer; 7 am to 8 pm in the winter. Inch Aran Park, right next to the Information office, in Dalhousie; ☎ 506/684-2525.

Le Moulin Café is a cozy, hospitable café with exceedingly good food. The *cretons maison* with a baguette is the best we've had east of Atwells Market in Montreal. Soups are made right there (seafood chowder brims with chunks of shellfish, for $8), and you can have a giant cup of latte (called a *boule* here, as it is throughout French-speaking Canada) with fresh-baked cookies or pastries for an afternoon pick-me-up. Umbrellas shade the outside tables, set among pots of plants, or you can eat at one of the five inside tables. They open at 7 am on weekdays, 9 am on weekends. 210 Chaleur St. (Rte. 134), Charlo, ☎ 506/684-9898.

La Crêpe Bretonne offers a long list of entrée and dessert crêpes, with fillings ranging from a tasty light lunch combination of cheese and apples to a heartier mélange of crab, scallops or lobster in bechamel sauce with mushrooms. In season, fresh raspberries fill our favorite dessert crêpe. Open Sunday through Thursday, 11 am until midnight; Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 1 am. 1085 rue du Parc in Paquetville; ☎ 506/764-5344.

Au Café Gourmet is a bright French café with aromas of fresh-baked croissants and breads. Their sandwiches are thick and tasty, their soups hearty, their coffee worth traveling through a blizzard for. When the weather's good, enjoy an afternoon strawberry tart with your coffee on their sidewalk terrace. 210 King Ave., Bathurst, ☎ 506/545-6754.

Chez Luc, in a former private home, is an upscale addition to Bathurst's growing culinary scene, serving a table d'hôte each evening priced at $25. Entrée choices might be quail with fines herbes, trout with tarragon, chicken stuffed with lobster, steak poivre, or Coquille St-Jacques. The main course always offers a choice of three entrées. Open daily, 5-10 pm. 555 Murray Ave. in Bathurst; ☎ 506/546-5322. ($$)

Francesca Ristorante offers a high-end menu with an Italian flair and a good wine list. A table d'hôte dinner is $23. The restaurant is open from 5 pm Monday through Saturday, and from 4 pm on Sunday. 1126 St. Peter Ave., Bathurst; ☎ 506/548-5111. ($$)

■ On the Peninsula

Like everyone else who travels a lot, we have our own short list of favorite places to lay our heads after a day on the road. **Hotel Paulin** is on it. We like to sink into the big white sofa in the parlor with glasses of good French wine in hand and watch the dinner guests arrive, while our appetites grow for the huge plates of succulent mussels we always begin with (although the pâté is tempting, too). The dining room is small – only six tables – and has the easy atmosphere and crisp linens of a French village auberge. It was built as a hotel by the owner's grandfather, and updated recently to add modern private baths and telephones to each room without losing a bit of its historic charm. After dinner ($-$$), walk through the back yard to the little cove and watch the lights twinkling along the Gaspé shore. Breakfast is served daily from 7:30 to 10 am, dinner from 5:30 to 10 pm, except on Monday. The hotel is open year-round. 143 boul. St-Pierre Ouest, Caraquet, NB E0B 1K0, ☎ 506/727-9981. ($$)

Just across the bridge from Shippagan, on Lamèque Island, is a stylish new inn, **Auberge des Compagnons**. It's a nice combination of shiny-new building and old-fashioned warm hospitality. Wide hallways give it the feel of an old grand hotel, and individually decorated rooms are large, with sitting areas and balconies. Views are best, as you might expect, from rooms on the water side. The bright airy restaurant overlooks the water, and serves a rather extensive menu of well-prepared seafood and meat dishes, with several entrées under $12. The coquille St-Jacques is juicy and flavorful and cod is served in hollandaise sauce or baked au gratin. Club sandwiches of lobster or chicken are served with vegetables as part of the dinner menu. The dining room is open Monday through Saturday 7-10 am and 5-10 pm, Sunday 7 am to 10 pm. Rte. 113, at 11 rue Principale, Lamèque, NB E8T 1M9; ☎ 506/344-7762 or 7766, fax 506/344-0813, www.sn200.nb.ca/comp/auberge-des-compagnons/index.html. Rooms ($$); restaurant ($-$$)

Maison Touristique Dugas has guest rooms in the main house with shared baths, and two suites with kitchens in a separate building. Rustic cabins also have kitchens, and there is a campground on the property, too. You're welcome to picnic at tables set among the wildflowers that decorate the well-tended grounds. Guests may use the private beach at the end of a dirt road. 683 boul. St-Pierre Ouest, Caraquet, NB E1W 1A1, ☎ 506/727-3195. ($)

l'Auberge Le Pionnier is a bit inland, but a short drive to beaches. It's a friendly place with a reliable restaurant and comfortable rooms. 1093 rue du Parc, Paquetville, NB E0B 2B0, ☎ 506/357-8424. ($-$$)

Au Mariner is not toney, but the seafood is excellent. They are also open for breakfast, serving bountiful plates of pancakes drenched in maple syrup. Rte. 11 in the center of Shippagan, ☎ 506/336-8240. ($-$$)

Au Pirate Maboule offers several varieties of fish, fajitas and escargot in a pub-like atmosphere. Specials include the captain's platter with a mix of fresh shellfish over pasta, and mussels in pesto and cream sauce. On the Shippagan end of the bridge to Lamèque, ☎ 506/336-0004. ($-$$)

L'Abri des Flots doesn't have the most exciting menu on the peninsula, but few dining rooms in all Canada can offer a better view on a summer evening, when the sun's rays lie obliquely at the horizon and bathe the boats in the marina in their glow. The blues, reds and greens of the hulls grow even more vivid and the predominating white of the boats becomes luminous. It's that indescribable northern light that only a handful of Canadian artists are able to capture. While the artistry is somewhat less in the kitchen, the scallops sautéed in butter are moist and fresh and the fisherman's plate ($25) is a generous and tasty platter that includes a lobster tail, crab cake, clams, scallops, mussels and fish filet. Most entrées are $11-$15. Open May through August. Opposite the Aquarium, at the Centre Marin, Shippagan; ☎ 506/336-8454.

Auberge Pont Rouge serves traditional Acadian dishes, including clam pie. Rte. 11 in Bertrand, near the intersection with Rte. 325; ☎ 506/727-4447. ($-$$)

Table des Ancêtres is in an historic home inside the Village Historique Acadien, where full meals of Acadian dishes are served between 11:30 and 4 daily. Hearty *poutine rapée*, *cretons*, pot roast, sugar pie and other traditional Acadian dishes are described in either French or English by the costumed waitresses. The village is on Rte. 11 west of Caraquet, ☎ 506/727-3467; you must enter the village to have lunch here. ($)

Restaurant la Pantrie offers a daily table d'hôte at $16, which includes three courses and coffee or tea. They also serve à la carte, specializing in local seafood and traditional Acadian dishes. Their $7 Sunday brunch, served 10 am to 1 pm, is very popular with locals. 170 boul. des Acadiens (Rte. 325), in Bertrand (near Caraquet), ☎ 506/764-3019. ($-$$)

Carey's By-the-Sea, a local favorite, serves seafood. Salmon Beach, ☎ 506/546-6801. ($-$$)

■ Along the East Coast

Le Boudreau Conference Center is a family-owned, modern motel with a reliable restaurant, Les Deux Rivières ($-$$) open daily from 6:30 am to 11 pm, specializing in seafood. PO Box 3359, Tracadie-Sheila, NB E1X 1G5, ☎ 506/395-6868 or 800/563-2242. ($$)

Motel Beauséjour, which also houses Chez Raymond Restaurant, is a comfortable motel open year-round. PO Box 74, Neguac, NB E03 1S0, ☎ 506/776-8718, fax 506/776-5462. ($-$$)

Maison de la Fondue offers many other dishes in addition to their fondues, which include traditional Swiss cheese as well as beef, chicken and

a delectable one with shellfish. They are open Tuesday-Sunday for dinner only. 3613 rue Luce, Tracadie-Sheila, ☎ 506/393-1100. ($$)

Patisserie Casse-Croute serves light meals 9 am to 9 pm, using their breads baked in the old fashioned Acadian outdoor oven. The patisserie also offers bread-baking lessons through the Day Adventures program. For $6 per person, you can learn how to make your own bread alongside costumed Acadian cooks, indulge in a bread-tasting complete with jams and a beverage, and then take home your own bread and its recipe. Call the bakery or a Day Adventures Centre for reservations. 12 L. Allain St., Neguac; ☎ 506/776-8634, fax 506/776-5893.

■ Camping

Camping Shippagan, four miles west of town, has tent and trailer sites with a beach, playground and boat ramp. Expect to pay $25 a day for a fully serviced site, $17 for semi-serviced, $13 for unserviced. 200 Hotel De Ville Ace., Shippagan, NB E0B 2P0, ☎ 506/363-3690.

Maison Touristique Dugas charges $8 to pitch your tent, $16 for a trailer site. You can join the B&B guests for breakfast for about $5. 683 boul. St.-Pierre Ouest, Caraquet, NB E1W 1A1, ☎ 506/727-3195.

Plage Miscou, on the northwest side of Miscou Island, has open sites, a beach, playground, and kayak rental. Serviced sites are $18, tent sites $12. A full week is charged at the six-day rate. 22 Allee Alphonse (off rue Vibert, which is off Rte. 113) Miscou; ☎ 506/344-1015.

> **TIP:** Campsites are subject to a 15% tax in New Brunswick, and some campgrounds include that in the price they quote, while others do not. So if the price turns out a little higher than listed, it's probably the tax.

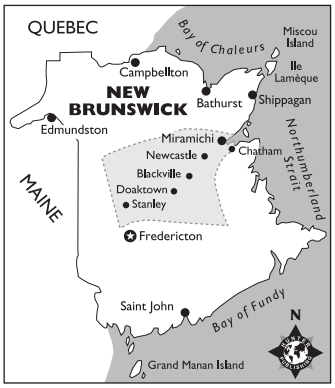
Camping Hache has a heated swimming pool; serviced and semi-serviced sites are $15-18. Rue Principal, Nigadoo, ☎ 506/783-3739.

Jacquet River Park, formerly a provincial park, is now operated by the Village of Belledune. Its 31 campsites are open only June through August. Fees are $16 with electricity, $13 without. Be sure to reserve early for July 1, Canada Day, when the park is the scene of the local observations, ending with fireworks in the evening. 3712 Main St., Belledune, NB E0G 1G0, ☎ 506/237-3239, off-season, 506/522-3700.

Inch Aran Park has a large campground on the water, adjacent to a recreation complex that has a swimming pool and other facilities. The sites are $16, serviced sites $23. The weekly rate charges for six days, with the

seventh free. The park is at the end of Inch Aran Ave., Dalhousie; ☎ 506/684-7363 or 800/576-4455.

The Miramichi



White pines more than 350 years old tower over a trail leading to a waterfall, salmon jump above the sparkling waters, huskies pull a sled along the banks of the frozen river in February, and the forest floor is scattered with edible mushrooms in the summer. The Miramichi is more than a river, more than a region, it's a state of mind and a way of life, and the people who live here have a culture and language all their own. But once you sort out their strings of double negatives, it's easy to understand – after a few days of casting your butterfly into the dinges with devillywit, we don't suppose you won't have to conjuberate long to know this is the best in the dear world, eh?

Geography & History

When we say that the Miramichi is more than a river, we mean it literally. It's a whole system of rivers in a watershed so complex that even locals don't try to sort out its source from among the multiple headwaters. If you look at a map in the geographical heart of New Brunswick, north of Stanley, you'll see a number of blue lines. These rivers and streams have a variety of names, some of them with "Miramichi" in them, and they begin to converge into the Southwest Miramichi River. But don't think you've found it all. Look almost due west of the new city of Miramichi, on the east coast, and you'll find another Southwest Miramichi River, this one's components with a varied string of qualifiers which grow longer and longer until they reach the world's record river name: Lower North Branch Little Southwest Miramichi River. Then there's the Northwest Miramichi River....

All the tributaries aren't named Miramichi. There's the Renous, a river well-known to anglers, the Cains, and others. Altogether, they form one of the most famous salmon-fishing river systems in the world, and all the greats have fished here. You can too, quite easily, but you'll need a guide and a salmon license.

Logging, fishing and shipbuilding built the Miramichi. The first commercial salmon fishery began in the mid 1700s, along with a thriving trade in the tall, straight first-growth trees for ship masts. In 1825 the Great

Miramichi Fire, fanned and spread by gale-force winds, destroyed 400 square miles along the river, with other scattered fires destroying thousands more. Along with the towns (Newcastle was reduced to a dozen buildings), the once great forests were destroyed. But towns and forests grew back, and lumber again became the backbone of the economy. The Cunard brothers, of the Cunard Lines family, established a shipyard in Chatham in the early 1800s, which thrived until iron ships took over the market at mid-century. But wood was always in demand, and huge timbering operations thrived here into recent memory.

SAYING IT RIGHT: In order to ask directions to the Miramichi, you should know how to pronounce it. The accent is always on the last syllable. Locals are about evenly divided, according to their ethnic heritage, between Murry-mi-SHEE and Merry-mi-SHEE. You'll do fine with either, but at all costs avoid the standard mistake of calling it the Mary-mitchie.

Getting Around

The best way to reach this region is by car, although most fishing lodge operators will meet you at the airport in the city of Miramichi. From your lodge you can arrange most activities to include transportation. For the non-angler, or the traveler who wants to sample a little bit of everything this rich area offers, a car is much easier, and offers more flexibility.

As you travel, you may be puzzled by the inconsistent names for the cluster of eleven communities that include Chatham, Douglastown, Newcastle, Loggieville, and several others. These previously separate towns were grouped, by order of the Canadian government, into one city in 1995. It was an administrative move not entirely favored by local residents, who still use the old town names. They don't do this to be stubborn or to confuse you; it actually makes your life much easier, since the old names tell you where to look for something in this rather sprawling new city. Chatham (now Miramichi East), Nelson, and Loggieville addresses are on the southeast bank of the river, Douglastown and Newcastle (now Miramichi West) on the northwest. The provincial highway map shows locations of the separate towns. We, too, shall use the older, more precise designations to make finding your way easier.

Information Sources

The **Tourist Information Office** (☎ 506/622-9100) is in the lighthouse at Ritchie Wharf; it's open daily, 9 am to 9 pm, from mid-May through early September.

Adventures

If your heart doesn't sing in tune with the birds, or if you think the only place for fish is on your plate, or if green isn't your favorite color, perhaps you'd better bypass the Miramichi. It's a place for those who love the outdoors in all its moods and seasons. The best way to see and appreciate the river is from a canoe; the only way to see most of the land between its tributaries is on foot – or with the help of a dog team or horse. In the winter, many of the roads are open only to snowmobiles. In the spring you can be born through the woods in chariots pulled by mosquitoes the size of mastodons.

■ On Foot

Trails crisscross the entire area, some following old rail spurs and lines, others logging roads. Some of these are still in active use, others overgrown and used by hunters, anglers and others who use four-wheel-drive vehicles. Some are badly eroded by heavy use, others grassy pathways through the woods. Many are used by snowmobilers in the winter, and the local clubs keep them cleared of brush and fallen trees.

Because of the network of old roads and trails, it is often difficult to give accurate directions, so be sure to have a local with you or to get thorough instructions and a map before setting out on the back-country trails. You are heading into a vast wilderness in almost any direction, so be sure you're prepared for surprises and be sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return. The woods are lovely, but they can swallow you up in minutes. The following trails are well-marked and easy to locate and follow.

Sheephouse Falls Nature Trail (also known as the Pulp and Paper Nature Trail) leads through part of a 300-acre reserve, about 30 miles northwest of Miramichi. Access is from the Fraser-Burchill Rd., off Rte. 430. About six miles from the intersection, turn left onto Little Sheephouse Rd., and left at the fork. The trail begins at the picnic area just before the bridge. Interpretive signs along the well-groomed brookside trail describe the natural environment, and on the way to the 40-foot waterfall you'll pass another smaller one. The larger falls is in a deep gorge, where a bridge crosses the stream.

MAPS: For maps of the area showing trails and access roads in the more remote areas, stop at the **Ranger Station**, 80 Pleasant St., Newcastle, ☎ 506/622-2636, where they can also give you information on trail conditions. For trails on the abandoned rail line, see *On Wheels*, below.

Middle Island Trail is a 1½-mile walk on cleared grass, circling Middle Island Park. It's an easy trail with nice views of the river and the island, which curiously is the same size and shape as a nearby lake. This has given rise to a number of legends about the land being scooped out and dropped into the river. The park has an unsupervised beach.

French Fort Cove lies between the Newcastle and Douglastown areas of Miramichi, and a two-mile trail circles the cove where the French built a fort in 1755. The easy trail begins at the intersection of Cove Rd. and Rte. 8, and takes about 90 minutes to walk. Scenic lookouts give views over the water, and you'll see the work of beavers (or the animals themselves if you go in the early morning or evening). Along the way you'll pass a gorge and some cliffs. Watch out for the headless nun who haunts the area and for the chests of gold buried by pirates at the north side of the bridge, both persistent legends you're likely to hear around the campfire. To book a place on the "Headless Nun Tour" of French Fort Cove, call ☎ 800/459-3131. We haven't, so you're on your own; we're not sure if the guide appears without a head, or has any other bad habits. The tours are given Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning at dusk, and cost $9 per person. You may reserve through the Day Adventures program, at Boardwalk Café and Tea Room (☎ 506/622-0089), or at Saddler's Café (☎ 506/773-4214).

Strawberry Marsh Trail is shorter, about a mile, and has a gravel surface. It starts opposite Country Inn & Suites, on Rte. 8 in Newcastle, traveling along the river through a landscape of marsh grass alive with waterfowl. In the river is Beaubear Island, where if you keep a sharp watch you may see a bald eagle.

GUIDED HIKING TOURS

■ **Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures**, Sillikers, NB ☎ 888/227-6100 or 506/622-8834, offers guided hikes in the Little Southwest Miramichi area near Newcastle. These hikes include transportation to the trailhead, nature interpretation and lunch, at about $50 per person. Debbie Norton will take groups as small as two on these hikes.

■ **O'Donnell's Cottages and Canoeing**, at 439 Storeytown Rd., Doaktown, NB, ☎ 506/365-7924, fax 365-9080, www.odonnellscottages. com, will assist guests in choosing a hiking destination and will provide transportation and a guide for interpretation. They

even bring the lunch. Their four-hour guided tour to Falls Brook Falls, with a naturalist interpreter, transportation and lunch, is the best way to find the falls, since the trails are far from easy to follow.

■ On Wheels

Several good bike routes use the recently refurbished abandoned rail lines along the river. One four-mile stretch connects Loggieville to Chatham, beginning at the corner of Wellington and Water streets. Its surface is covered in crushed rock. Birds and wildflowers thrive in the low woodland, which opens to frequent views over the river. Since these trails are multi-use areas, cyclists must give way to walkers and joggers.

Another good section, the **Whooper Trail**, follows the river along the route of the old train, named for the ghostly Dungarvon Whooper, between Doaktown and McNamee. Its gravel surface is usually in good condition, except in early spring when there may be occasional washouts. You can continue on to Boiestown, emerging at the Woodmen's Museum, a good point if someone is meeting you to save you the return trip. **Clearwater Hollow**, ☎ 800/563-TRAIL, rents mountain bikes and provides shuttle service, as well as guided bicycling excursions.

■ On Water

At least once, step into a canoe and learn why people use terms like "magical" and "mystical" to describe this river. Gliding silently downstream through water dappled with splashes of sunlight and the dark shadows of pines and spruces that tower on the banks above, you are in another world, where time and distance are irrelevant. Writer Lane MacIntosh, who lives in Fredericton, only an hour from the Miramichi, speaks of the "powerful sensory experience." We can't find better words.

Canoeing & Kayaking

While the more developed (don't be alarmed at that word – development here means a log cabin overlooking a salmon pool or an occasional cluster of houses) part of the river runs close to Rte. 8, with several put-in points, the more pristine upper reaches are harder to get to. Happily, one stretch has a put-in and a take-out convenient to easily found roads, providing about 40 miles of river for a nice overnight trip. The Southwest Miramichi parallels the north side of Rte. 107 between Napadogan and Juniper, where the best put-in point is in a stand of tall pines, almost halfway between the two towns. The take-out is at Bloomfield Ridge, just off Rte. 625 near Boiestown.

TIP: Before putting your canoe in the water, pick up a copy of the *Southwest Miramichi Canoe Map*, a sturdy Tyvek document with river landmarks, location and classification of the rapids, and other information you'll need to explore the river. These are available locally at most stores and lodges. By custom and courtesy, fishermen have the right-of-way and you should paddle quietly behind them.

CANOE OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ Rent canoes from **O'Donnell's Canoeing Adventures**, 439 Storeytown Rd., Doaktown, ☎ 506/365-7924, fax 506/365-9080, www.odonnellscottages.com. From May through October, they offer programs that include an exciting four-hour paddle on the Miramichi with lunch, all equipment provided. The "Miramichi Adventure Spree" is $49 adult, $25 child. Reservations are essential and can be made directly or through the Day Adventures program.

Along the leisurely route you are likely to see bald eagles above you and salmon in the water below you as you move along with the spirited current or paddle in the slow waters of the deep pools. A riverside picnic lunch is included, as is a stop to walk through New Brunswick's oldest covered bridge. If the area's unique history fascinates you, ask if you can have retired teacher Dan O'Donnell as your guide. (He also specializes in teaching beginners to fly-fish.) From Rte. 8 north of Doaktown, turn onto the side road 500 feet north of the bridge and, after just over a quarter-mile, turn left. They are on the left 2½ miles down the road.

Whether your guide is Dan or Gilbert Thiboudalt, you'll hear stories about the famed salmon pools you pass through on the way, including who owns them and who has caught what there. (Unlike many places, the best salmon pools here are owned by the adjacent landowners, and each fishing guide has access to certain pools where salmon are known to lurk.) Multi-day packages include a half-day tour and the use of canoes to explore different stretches of the river, with shuttle service from the cozy log cabins, where two nights' lodging is provided. They also offer fishing guides and can arrange for you to purchase a license.

■ **Ledges Inn**, at 30 Ledges Inn Lane in Doaktown, ☎ 506/365-1820, fax 365-7138, e-mail souwest@nbnet.nb.cahas, has packages that include use of their canoes on the Miramichi in the company of an expert instructors, who'll show how to guide the canoe through rapids on the river.

■ **Betts Kelly Lodge & Cottages Outdoor Activities**, ☎ 506/365-8008, offers full- and half-day canoe and kayak tours that include use of equipment, professional instruction, a tour guide and refreshments. The full-day tour ends with a barbecue, and all guests are welcome to dip in the pool after the trip to freshen up. Half-days cost $35 for 2½ hours, and a 4½-hour full day is $70. Reservations can also be made through the Day Adventures program.

■ Debbie and Dale Norton at **Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures** in Sillikers, NB, ☎ 888/227-6100 or 506/622-8834, offer guided canoe excursions at $50 per person, including lunch, canoe, shuttle and instruction; or $30 per person without a guide. There is a maximum of two adults and one child per canoe.

■ **Cornish Corner Inn** in Stanley, ☎ 506/367-2239 (see *Where To Stay & Eat*, page 193), offers canoeing packages that include room, breakfast, a box lunch, canoe, a guide, and one of their justly famous dinners on your return, for $95 per person. Without a guide it's $65, about the best bargain you'll find.

AND THEY NAMED A TRAIN FOR HIS GHOST... We don't need to worry about spoiling the campfire stories you'll hear in the Miramichi, since this one is never told the same way twice. The **Dungarvon Whooper's** long blood-curdling cry is heard by perfectly sane people (although everyone we know who has heard it has at least one trace to Miramichi ancestry). As the story goes, it is the ghostly wail of a young Irish lumberman who was found one morning without his wallet, and with his throat slit ear to ear. The fury of the blizzard that followed was so great that his bunkmates had trouble burying him properly, and his wail is heard to this day in the deep forests near the banks of the Dungarvon River, deep in the Miramichi.

Tubing

Both **Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures** and **O'Donnell's** offer tubing. Upper Oxbow's package is $15 per person with a life-jacket and transportation, or $20 with a lunch added. They are on the Little Southwest Miramichi River at Sillikers, follow Rte. 420 west from Rte. 8; ☎ 506/622-8834. O'Donnell's Cottages and Canoeing offers a two-hour tubing experience on the Miramichi that includes basic safety instruction, lifejacket

and a two-hour guided tour. They're at 439 Storeytown Rd., Doaktown, ☎ 506/365-7924, www.odonnellscottages.com.

Harbor & Bay Tours

If you don't want to get too up-close-and-personal with the river, **Staff's Charters Boat Tours** cruise in Miramichi Bay and along the harbor in Miramichi. Full-day (six-hour) tours leave from Burnt Cove near Neguac on the north shore of the bay, and go to uninhabited Portage Island's National Wildlife Area, where guests enjoy a driftwood beach fire and lunch, along with beachcombing, swimming, clam digging (they provide equipment and instruction), birding and island exploration. You can also jig for mackerel during the cruise. A trip to Portage Island costs between $15 and $20 per person, depending on how many passengers are on board, and you will need advance reservations. A shorter harbor tour is about $5, and leaves from Ritchie Wharf in Newcastle. The Middle Island Boat Ride is $10 and the Beaubears Island Historical Park Boat Ride also leaves from Ritchie's Wharf and is $10 per person. Stafford Anderson, Jr., who runs the trips July-September, has a Coast Guard certified boat. Contact Staff's Charters at Box 3, RR#2, Legacyville, Burnt Cove, NB E0C 1K0, ☎ 506/776-3217.

Fishing

The name Miramichi immediately conjures up pictures of fishing; it's almost a registered trade name among anglers, and all the greats have fished it. So can you, either on a week-long stay at one of the fishing lodges along the river, or on a Day Adventure. For current information on licensing, regulations and seasons, request a copy of *Fish New Brunswick* from the New Brunswick Wildlife Department, PO Box 20211, Fredericton, NB E3B 2A2, or pick up the *Aim and Angle Guide* at any provincial tourism office.

Most anglers book in at one of the fishing lodges in the area, which own some of the best fishing waters, but you can hire a guide and fish on a day basis. If you have never fished and would like to try the sport, you can learn with the best here. Most lodges offer expert instruction as part of a package.

TIP: According to the folks at Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures, if you are going to fish the Miramichi you should use number one and two flies on a sinking line in the spring, but take numbers four through 10 on a floating line for use the rest of the time. They also say that Mickey Finn, Golden Eagle, Black Ghost, Black Bear, Green Machine, Rusty Rat and Butterfly are good styles to bring along. They also sell them, so don't worry if they are not in your tackle box.

For a day of fishing, with instruction, all equipment, guide and two meals, you can take advantage of a Day Adventure offered by **Miramichi Gray Rapids Lodge** on Rte. 118 in Blackville, ☎ 506/357-9784 or 800/261-2330, fax 506/357-9733. They have four private pools in a prime location.

FISHING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES

■ **O'Donnell's Cottages and Canoeing**, 439 Storeytown Rd., Doaktown E9C 1T3, ☎ 506/365-7924, fax 365-9080, www.odonnellscottages.com, has professional guides that will take guests fly-fishing on the Miramichi. They will also arrange to get your license.

■ **Ledges Inn**, 30 Ledges Inn Lane, Doaktown E0C 1G0, ☎ 506/365-1820, fax 365-7138, e-mail souwest@nbnet.nb.ca, is about an hour's travel from either Fredericton or Miramichi. Among other activities, they offer fly-fishing on their own pools and will supply an instructor if you would like lessons.

■ **Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures**, in Sillikers, ☎ 506/622-8834, 888/227-6100 (or contact the Day Adventures program), is located on the Little Southwest Miramichi River. Their half- and full-day packages include a professional guide, all necessary equipment, license and a lunch. Half-day rates are $135; full days are $185. Multi-day packages that include all meals, lodging, guide, license and pick up at the Chatham airport run from $518 (June through mid-October) for a three-night/two-day trip with options for up to an eight-night/seven-day stay. Reserve as early in advance as possible.

■ **Country Haven Lodge and Cottages**, in Gray Rapids (☎ 877-FLYHOOK), also offer excursions through the Day Adventures program. For $175 per person, their guides will spend the entire day with you and give fly-casting instruction. The cost also includes equipment rental, lunch, and a salmon and fiddlehead supper. The lodge also offers multi-day packages for fishing, canoeing and kayaking, plus sightseeing tours.

■ **Black Rapids Salmon Lodge**, PO Box 182, Blackville, NB E0C 1C0, ☎ 506/843-2346, fax 506/843-7755, offers comfortable accommodations, shared bath, three home-cooked meals, professional guides, and one mile of excellent private water on the Miramichi River, plus two miles of adjacent public water. Boats are used during the spring run-off, but bring waders to fish the pools in the summer. Rates are about $1,300 for four nights lodging and three days fishing, all inclusive.

■ **Pond's Resort**, 91 Porter Cove Rd. (PO Box 73), Ludlow, NB E0C 1N0, ☎ 506/369-2612, fax 506/369-2293, has rustic cabins, hearty meals, licensed guides, and superb fishing. Bring your own tackle and gear, including waders. In addition to salmon, Pond's offers trout fishing, canoeing, and hiking. A three-day, three-night package is about $1,500.

■ To fish with a well-known Miramichi guide, contact fishing author **Wayne Curtis** at PO Box 225, Newcastle, NB E1V 3M3, ☎ 506/843-7890 in the summer, or write Box 294, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y9, ☎ 506/452-9015 in the winter. Wayne grew up on the Miramichi, and knows the river intimately.

As elsewhere in the province (and other provinces as well) you can't just buy a fishing license and drop a fly in the water. The Miramichi is a scheduled river, which means it has salmon in it and is subject to several restrictions. First, if you are not a resident of New Brunswick, you must be accompanied by a licensed guide. The guide will know which pools are private and will have obtained permission, if needed, to fish wherever he takes you. Or, your guide will be employed by the lodge where you are staying, and you will be fishing in their pools.

TIP: If you fish the Miramichi, you'll want to stop at "Doak's." **W.W. Doak and Sons, Ltd.**, ☎ 506/365-7828, fax 506/365-7762, on the main road in Doaktown, is a small shop with a huge reputation. It is known worldwide for its superb selection of fly rods, reels, lines, flies, and gear.

■ On Snow

It's not at all unusual for the Miramichi area to be covered in white by early December, and the accumulation is enough to last into early April, so snow sports are a way of life for residents.

Skiing

The gentle, rolling riverside terrain is ideal for cross-country skiing, and you can be pretty sure of a good supply of snow. The **Miramichi Cross-Country Ski Club** maintains 15 miles of groomed trails in lengths from a quarter-mile to eight miles. On Mondays they have a Women's Ski Tour and on weekends frequently have moonlight skis. Their annual loppet is part of the Provincial Loppet calendar. The daily trail fee is $3; $1 for children under 12.

Miramichi Gray Rapids Lodge, Rte. 118, Blackville, offers cross-country and snowshoe trails, as well as tobogganing and dogsledding. Mailing address is 326 MacDonald Ave., Oromocto, NB E2V 1A7; ☎ 506/357-9784 or 800/261-2330, fax 506/357-9733.

The Ledges Inn, in Doaktown remains open throughout the winter and offers its guests a variety of activities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sliding and sleigh rides, along with lodging and fine dining. 30 Ledges Inn Lane, Doaktown E0C 1G0, ☎ 506/365-1820, fax 365-7138, e-mail souwest@nbnet.nb.ca.

SNOWSHOE HIKING: One of the most interesting winter experiences is to join a Micmac guide at the **Red Bank First Nation** for an hour's snowshoe hike followed by two hours of ice fishing. Along with snowshoes and fishing equipment, you will get a sample of traditional food and beverage, at $25 per person. Reserve through the Day Adventure program or directly with Red Bank at ☎ 506/836-7146.

Snowmobiling

Provincial Snowmobile Trail 42 runs from Fredericton to the Northumberland Strait, much of its distance along the Miramichi River. It follows the old rail line, the same trail used by walkers and cyclists in the summer. The distance from Fredericton to Miramichi is 133 miles via this trail.

Several snowmobile clubs groom and maintain the trails and hold events which visitors are welcome to join. These include **Miramichi Valley Snowmobile Club**, PO Box 622, Newcastle, NB E1V 3M3, ☎ 506/773-5607, fax 506/622-2119; and the **Nelson Snowmobile Club**, PO Box 295, Nelson-Miramichi, NB E0C 1T0, ☎ 506/778-8659. The **Rogersville Snowmobile Club**, ☎ 506/775-6418, fax 506/775-1882, has races every Sunday at 1:30 pm, and salt-cod suppers every Friday evening.

The Miramichi Valley Club sponsors the **Annual Maritime Snowmobile Festival** in early February (☎ 800/459-3131 for information and dates).

You could hardly picture a more idyllic winter scene than **Schooner Point Log Cabins** with snow up to their eaves and walkways with snowbanks so high they seem like tunnels. They are the picture-perfect place for a winter getaway. Ten log cabins sit in an open spruce forest, each with cedar interior, fully equipped modern kitchen, electric heat and two bedrooms. Snowmobilers gather here, and the owners rent machines and equipment at $125 for the machine plus $20 insurance; add another $20 if you need extra gear. Helmet and trail pass are included in the basic fee. Beginners just trying out the sport can sign up for a Day Adventure, which includes a snowmobile, all equipment, instruction, trail lunch and at least eight hours of guided touring, for $260 per snowmobile (two people can share a machine or each ride separately). If snowmobiles aren't your style, they can arrange for you to go smelt fishing through the ice. 192 Murdoch Rd., Miramichi (Chatham) NB E1N 3A3, ☎ 506/778-2338, fax 506/773-9869.

Eastern Scenic Adventures, PO Box 398, Miramichi, NB E1V 3M5, ☎ 506/778-8573, fax 506/778-8222, also runs guided snowmobile trips, with machines and equipment (including suit and helmet) and lunch, at about $140 per person for half a day, $200 a full day. You can reserve through the Day Adventures program.

Ponds Resort (Porter Cove Rd., Ludlow, NB E0C 1N0, ☎ 506/369-2612, fax 506/369-2293) offers snowmobile packages with trailside lodging beginning at about $45 per person per night, for those who bring their own machines. **Miramichi Gray Rapids Lodge** in Blackville (☎ 506/357-9733 or 800/261-2330; see *Skiing*, above) also has snowmobile packages.

Juniper Lodge, Juniper, NB E0J 1P0, ☎ 506/246-5223, offers a relaxed setting almost in the middle of nowhere. Juniper is on the North Branch of the Southwest Miramichi, on Rte. 107 about halfway between Stanley and Bristol. The lodge offers a relaxed atmosphere, home-cooked meals and access to trails, with lodging packages at about $85 a night per couple. You will need to bring your own machine or rent one elsewhere, although they do have fuel service at the lodge.

Betts Kelly Lodge, PO Box 177, Doaktown, NB E0C 1G0, ☎ 506/365-8008, fax 506/365-8007, has log cabins with full housekeeping facilities, close to snowmobile trails, in the same price range as Juniper.

Skating, Sledding & Sleigh Rides

The Recreation Department in the city of Miramichi, ☎ 506/623-2300, maintains **skating rinks**.

Moonshadow Dogsledding Adventures, Giants Glen Rd., Stanley, ☎ 506/367-2767, will teach you how to mush your own team of Eskimo dogs, for a day trip or a weekend of serious sledding. While the team rests, you can have lunch by an open fire.

Wine River Stables, PO Box 585, Chatham, Miramichi, NB E1N 3A8, ☎ 506/773-7648, offers hour-long sleigh-rides through the sparkling woods and fields of their ranch, followed by a home-cooked lunch in front of a roaring fire in their lodge. The cost is $12 per person.

Hoods Sleigh Rides, 410 Red Rock Rd., Stanley, ☎ 506/367-2531, has sleighs and a log cabin where they serve meals and snacks after your sleigh ride.

Schooner Point Log Cabins, 192 Murdock Rd., Chatham, Miramichi, NB E1N 3A8, ☎ 506/778-2338, can arrange for you to take a sleigh ride, which can include a lunch stop in a cabin with a warming fire waiting. These cost from $6 a person.

The Ledges Inn offers sleigh rides by reservation from their inn at 30 Ledges Inn Lane, Doaktown E0C 1G0, ☎ 506/365-1820, fax 365-7138, e-mail souwest@nbnet.nb.ca.

Sunny Side Inn, 65 Henderson St., Miramichi, NB E1N 2R4, ☎ 506/773-4232 (see page 192), offers winter romance packages complete with a four-course candlelight dinner and an old fashioned sleigh ride, at $190 a couple.

■ On Horseback

Wine River Stables, PO Box 585, Miramichi, NB E1N 3A8, ☎ 506/773-7648, has trail rides year-round at their farm outside of Chatham.

Cornish Corner Inn, Stanley, ☎ 506/367-2239 (see page 193), has wilderness horse trekking packages in the spring, summer and fall, which include lodging and meals at the inn.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

The long First Nation history of the area and the wide variety of immigrant populations makes the Miramichi a rich center for intermingling cultures. Each is represented in festivals and exhibits, and in the daily lives of the descendants. The area's concentration of Irish families makes it a natural venue for the largest **Irish Festival** in Canada each July.

Metepenagiag (Red Bank Reserve), 76 Shore Rd., Red Bank, ☎ 506/836-2366, is a First Nation exhibit showing Micmac heritage and the people's relationship with the river and the land. The Red Bank First Nation lived on this spot at the confluence of the Little Southwest and Northwest Miramichi Rivers for 3,000 years. Ongoing excavations have documented

their occupation of the site, and the display of artifacts is expected to grow as work on the site continues and the findings are placed in their historical perspective. The exhibit is near Quarryville; take Rte. 415 north or, at Derby Junction, take Rte. 420 west along the river. It is open late June through August, daily from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Special events are also held: in late June, there is the Oxbow Pow Wow; in mid-August is the Burnt Church First Nation Powwow at Diggle Point in Burnt Church. Both include drumming, dancing and traditional crafts. A package is offered that includes a one-hour exhibit tour, a one-hour canoe trip in a traditional birch-bark canoe with Mi'kmaq guides, and a traditional Mi'kmaq feast. This Day Adventure, called "Ancient History... Modern Fun!" costs $40 for adults and $20 for children under 12. Additional activities, such as craft workshops for children and adults, are available through the Metepenagiag Heritage Exhibit. Contact Patricia Dunnett, ☎ 506/836-6179.

Mi'kmaq Arts and Crafts in Red Bank sells local handwork, including baskets. The **Augustine Mound**, an ancient burial site, is nearby, and the band office can give you directions. (For a unique winter experience learning ancient Micmac arts of ice fishing and snowshoeing, see the box on page 185.)

The **Natoaganeg Fishery & Tour** is an in-depth, 3½-hour activity held by the Eel Ground Community Development Centre of the Mi'kmaq peoples. You will be given a tour of Canada's oldest fish hatchery and observe the harvest while learning about how modern methods and conservation concerns have been integrated with the aboriginal harvesting methods. All of this will be explained by knowledgeable guides, followed by a traditional meal that includes barbecued salmon and fiddleheads. $30 adults, $10 children under 12 includes the meal, by reservation only. The center is off Rte. 425, south west of Newcastle (Miramichi), along the river before the bridge to Derby Junction. For information and reservations, contact them at 14 Fishery Rd., Eel Ground, ☎ 506/623-5488, e-mail jdenny@nbnet.nb.ca, or reserve through the Day Adventures program.

Sightseeing

The Woodsmen's Museum, Rte. 8, Boiestown, ☎ 506/369-7214, shows how timber made the Miramichi, long before it became one of North America's sportfishing meccas, portraying the heart and soul of that industry, and the days when it ruled the northland. It's an eye-catching museum, with two log-shaped buildings, a huge ax embedded in one, a mammoth peavey in the other. One has alcoves furnished as a school, general store, cabin and a telephone office. But the real meat of the museum is, like the logging camp it portrays, outdoors. Here is reconstructed a typical loggers' camp, with bunkhouse, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, a pitsaw, sawmill, cookhouse, and machine sheds full of equipment. A narrow-gauge railroad runs through the woods and over a

trestle; adults can ride it for $2, children $1. The museum is open daily, May through September, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm; admission is $5.

Miramichi Salmon Museum, Rte. 8, Doaktown, ☎ 506/365-7787, deals with the past, present and future of the Atlantic salmon, and with the sport of salmon fishing. An aquarium is stocked with live salmon, plus other species common to the river. Outside is an ice house, showing how ice was taken from the river and stored for use in warm weather. The museum is open daily, June through September, from 9 am until 5 pm; admission is $4.

Doak Historic Site, Rte. 8, Doaktown, ☎ 506/453-2324, reflects the history of the town that was named for its builder, one of the town's earliest settlers. In it is the home's original furniture, and docents demonstrate early crafts and skills. Tour the barn and milkhouse of this early 19th-century farm. Open late June to early September, Monday-Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday, 1 to 4:30 pm. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

MacDonald Farm Historic Site, Rte. 11, Bartibog, ☎ 800/561-0123, was built in the early 1800s by a Scottish veteran of the American Revolution. It is a good example of a self-contained farmstead, where everyday activities of the period – including cooking, gardening, caring for farm animals, and soapmaking – are carried on by costumed interpreters. It is open daily, July-September, 9:30 to 4:30. Admission is $2.50; $1.50 for children; $7 for family.

Nelson Hollow Covered Bridge, the oldest in New Brunswick, is on a dead-end road just west of Doaktown. You can walk through it to inspect its construction.

The **Priceville Swinging Bridge** is not for those with acrophobia, especially after you've heard the story of how it and the people on it were swept away in a terrible spring flood. But thousands of people have crossed the new bridge in safety, and kids will love the long, scary walk above the water. It is on the McNamee Rd., between Doaktown and Boiestown, crossing to the village of Priceville.

> **TIP:** Although the principal attractions of the area are its natural setting and outdoor activities, several other places are well worth a stop. The don't-miss sights are the **Woodsmen's Museum** and the **swinging bridge**.

Miramichi Natural History Museum, 149 Wellington St., Chatham, ☎ 506/773-7305, has an endearing collection that ranges from arachnids to Zulu spears, and includes the logs of the Cunard Steamship Line – not so unlikely when you know that the Cunard family is a local one. Look for fossils and for pre-European stone tools and implements of local native

peoples. It is open daily in the summer, 10 am to 6 pm. Don't be confused by the sign, which still proclaims it to be the Chatham Natural History Museum, its name before the wholesale amalgamation of all those towns.

Rankin House Museum, in Douglastown, ☎ 506/773-3448, occupies the Rankin Mansion, which was built in 1837 to replace an earlier one that burned. Rankin, who had moved to the area in 1812, made his fortune in lumber and shipbuilding; the house shows his power and influence in the community, which he also served as a legislator. His mansion has been restored by the historical society to the Victorian period, when it was last occupied as a home. The museum contains a collection of historical artifacts from the Miramichi. Don't miss Frank Aubrie's ingenious Rube Goldberg-style creation, a miniature circus that moves by means of a series of pulleys and bicycle chains. Look, too, for the collection of wood carvings made by woodsmen in lumber camps, as well as a large board featuring photographs of logging and tall-masted sailing ships in the harbor in 1897. The museum is open July and August, Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Ritchie Wharf in Newcastle, a newly constructed boardwalk, has become a center for waterfront activities. The Tourist Office (☎ 800/459-3131) is here, as are cafés, shops, a playground, and benches where you can sit and watch the river go by. Boat tours leave from here, and it's a good place to check in when you arrive, since any new activities and current events will be posted at the lighthouse. On Sunday afternoons there is often a live musical performance, which could be singers, fiddlers or a local band.

Beaubear Island, a Federal Historic Site where French families hid from the British troops during the Acadian expulsion, is a quiet, peaceful place with walking trails through the tall white pine forest. Local stories suggest that the masts for Lord Nelson's fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar came from this forest. One of the reasons it's so peaceful here is that there's no public boat access. You either have to paddle here yourself or find someone with a boat to bring you here. There's a picnic area on the eastern tip of the island.

■ Farmers' Markets & Local Produce

Farmers' Markets provide not only fresh seasonal produce, but crafts, unique food gifts (honey, wild berry jams, and maple products), and a chance to mingle with local people you might not meet otherwise. The **Chatham Farmers' Market** is held on Water St. throughout the growing season on Fridays, 3 to 7 pm, and the **Newcastle Farmers' Market** (☎ 506/622-0483) is in the Linden Recreation Center each Friday, 11 am to 3 pm.

Bay Breeze Farm, corner of Rte. 117 and River Rd., Bay du Vin, NB E0C 1B0, ☎ 506/228-4437, grows plump, juicy strawberries that you can pick

in the late spring in their fields overlooking Miramichi Bay. They are open daily, 9 am to 8 pm during strawberry season, and later in the summer for raspberries. Both are grown pesticide-free.

■ Music Festivals

The **Irish Festival** on the Miramichi (☎ 506/778-8810) brings Irish musicians from all over the world. Everything turns Irish, and the pubs do a lively business. Pipe and drum corps, a Festival Mass, dancing, Irish games and cultural events fill four days in mid-July.

The **Miramichi Fiddlers Weekend** (☎ 800/459-3131) brings French, Scottish, Irish and other traditional fiddlers together in early August, when you can join them for pancake breakfasts, a dance and a fiddlers' jamboree.

The following weekend brings the **Miramichi Folksong Festival** (☎ 506/623-2150), with well-known performers who come for the occasion, as well as (our favorites) the local artists singing traditional "Come All Ye" songs which are peculiar to the river. These are among the oldest known folksongs of the northeast, narrative ballads that nearly always begin "Come All Ye..." hence the name. This event has been going on for more than 40 years.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.
$ . . . . . Under $50
$$ . . . . . $50 to $100
$$$. . . . . $101 to $175
$$$$ . . . . . Over $175

DINING KEY
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.
$ . . . . . Under $10
$$. . . . . $10-$20
$$$. . . . . Over $20

■ Chatham/Newcastle

(City of Miramichi)

Sunny Side Inn is in a gracious big Victorian mansion high above the riverbank in Chatham. The restoration is excellent, incorporating modern comforts in an uncluttered 19th-century setting. 65 Henderson St., Miramichi, NB E1N 2R4, ☎ 506/773-4232 or 800/852-7711. ($$)

Schooner Point Log Cabins are built of cedar logs and stand near the east banks of Miramichi Bay. Guests can rent canoes there to explore the shore. They are open year-round (see page 186 for winter activities). Prices run from $90-120 per night for four adults, or $535 a week. 192 Murdoch Rd., Miramichi (Chatham) NB E1N 3A3, ☎ 506/778-2338, fax 506/773-9869.

Country Inn & Suites is a modern motel-style accommodation in Newcastle, with nicely appointed rooms and a free continental breakfast. Expect to pay about $70. 333 King George Highway, Miramichi, NB E1V 1L2, ☎ 506/627-1999, fax 506/627-1907.

Cunard Restaurant is a local institution; a friend of ours remembers going there in her starched dresses for special occasions as a small child. They serve a combined menu of respectable Chinese dishes and standard Canadian fare, such as steaks and well-prepared seafood. 32 Cunard St., Chatham, ☎ 506/773-7107. ($-$$)

Saddlers Café, also on the Chatham side of the river, serves pastas, seafood (including a Miramichi bouillabaisse) and vegetarian dishes overlooking the river in Lord Beaverbrook's former offices. It's open daily, 10 am to 9 pm. 331 Water St., ☎ 506/773-4214. ($-$$)

Boardwalk Café and Tea Room serves local dishes, including fiddlehead soup and quiche, shepherd's pie, and desserts of fresh berries. They open at 11 am, and lunch dishes are in the $6 range. It's an updated tearoom atmosphere with lace tablecloths and a nice view over the river. On Sundays, from 3 to 6 pm they serve a sumptuous tea. Of course, you can have tea and dessert there any afternoon, but on Sunday they have scones and dainty tea sandwiches. Ritchie Wharf, Newcastle, ☎ 506/622-6124.

Portage Restaurant serves a standard menu of steaks and seafood, and is open from 6 am until 11 pm daily, with slightly shorter hours Sunday. Rte. 11, Chatham, ☎ 506/773-6447. ($-$$)

■ Along the Miramichi River

O'Donnell's Cottages overlook the Miramichi River; it's quite common to share their sweeping lawns with a family of deer. The cabins are just rustic enough to make you feel like you're in a New Brunswick hunting

camp, but have all the comforts, including fully equipped kitchens. Each has a front porch overlooking the riverbank. 439 Storeytown Rd., Doaktown, NB E9C 1T3, ☎ 506/365-7924, fax 365-9080, www.odonnellscottages.com. ($$)

The Ledges Inn has three suites and four individual rooms, all with TV and phone, and they offer laundry service to guests. The inn also has a lounge and full dining room. During the summer, guests have access to an indoor pool. Packages include activities such as fly-fishing, canoeing, birding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 30 Ledges Inn Lane, Doaktown, NB E0C 1G0, ☎ 506/365-1820, fax 365-7138, e-mail souwest@nbnet.nb.ca. ($$-$$$)

Ponds Resort has riverside cabins and a large lodge where they serve meals to guests and others. It's a classic sporting camp, where you can depend on the conversation to center around fishing. They rent equipment and arrange for guides and licenses, too. Complete fishing packages with guide, equipment and three meals are $395 per person, per day. Porter Cove Rd., Ludlow, NB E0C 1N0, ☎ 506/369-2612 or 877/971-POND, fax 506/369-2293. (rooms $-$$; cabins $$)

Cornish Corner Inn has bright, comfortable rooms and a restaurant worth traveling for – pheasant, beef pie in a baked potato crust or scallops in premium sherry. Desserts are irresistible, as are breakfast scones. The hosts are energetic people with a fine-tuned sense of humor, who love the area and try to introduce guests to the best it can offer. They arrange a multitude of packages that include everything from horseback riding to mushroom hunting. The inn is open April until mid-December. Main St. (PO Box 40), Stanley, NB E0H 1T0, ☎ 506/367-2239, fax 506/367-2230. ($)

A large carved wooden moose calls your attention to **B&L Restaurant**, where you can get simple family-style meals at very reasonable prices. It's open 7 am to 9 pm, every day. Rte. 8, Doaktown, ☎ 506/365-7907. ($)

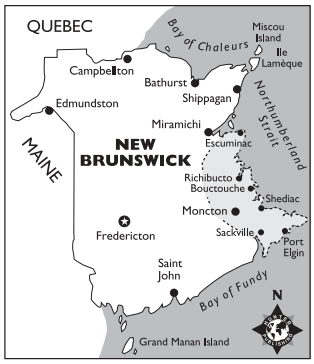
Darlene's Tea House and Bakery, between Doaktown and Miramichi, is not just for tea. Saturday is baked bean day, and on Sunday there's a brunch with lots of hearty food. They also serve Sunday dinner, which might include corned beef & cabbage or roast beef. In spring they serve buttered fiddleheads. All week long Darlene serves chowders, as well as pies and a selection of baked goods to go with your tea. High tea, served Monday through Friday from 2 to 4 pm, is also an option, with salmon and cucumber sandwiches and scones with clotted cream and homemade jam. You should make reservations for it. Off Rte. 8, open Monday through Sunday, 8 am to 8 pm. 186 Barnetville Rd., Blackville, ☎ 506/843-7873. ($)

■ Camping

Red Pines Park is at the Woodmen's Museum. Camping is a reasonable $7 a night, or $8.50 with hook-up. Firewood is available. Boiestown, NB E0H 1A0, ☎ 506/369-7214, fax 506/369-7406.

Enclosure Campground, a half-mile west of Newcastle, has a heated and supervised swimming pool and large kitchen shelters, as well as an activity center. Campsites are in a stand of tall pine trees. Rte. 8, Miramichi, NB, ☎ 800/363-1733 or 506/622-8638.

The East Coast



Prince Edward Island protects this shore from the rougher tides of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, providing instead the calmer, warmer waters of the Northumberland Strait. Beaches and coastal marshland – prime migration stops for birds on the Atlantic Flyway – face these quieter waters. It is for these miles of white sand beaches, lapped by the warmest sea water north of Virginia, that the area from Miramichi Bay to Cape Tormentine (where the bridge links New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island) is best known. Kouchibouguac National Park protects a rare northern barrier island and miles of bog, marsh and forest joined by trails. Its low shore terrain is good for bicycling and the gentle seas for kayaking. Snowmobiling is the region's favored winter sport, but miles of cross-country trails also bring skiers to the eastern part of the province.

Geography & History

The region is defined on the north by the Miramichi River's mouth and the wide bay it forms. On the south it reaches to the east bank of the Petitcodiac River, a tidal estuary that brings the enormous force of the Fundy tides right into downtown Moncton. East of the Petitcodiac, the isthmus that connects Nova Scotia to New Brunswick narrowly prevents Nova Scotia from being an island. In 1997, a mammoth bridge was completed at Cape Tormentine, at last linking Prince Edward Island to mainland Canada via road instead of the ferry that previously connected it from the same point.

As a result of its unique position as the link to both these water-bound provinces, this part of New Brunswick has been a corridor through which travelers bent on other places passed, many hardly glancing around them on their way through. Moncton, the city through which all routes seem to pass (you can't cut straight up the coast from Fundy National Park to the Nova Scotia border, because the Petitcodiac River's vast tidal flats are in the way), is also generally ignored by tourists. It's been their loss, since the isthmus region has so many attractions of its own.

Historically, the area has also been a pivotal point. **Fort Beauséjour** was a French bastion until 1755, when the British gained control of it. In the same year the British solidified their position in Nova Scotia by deporting all those French farmers who refused to swear allegiance to the King after the British gained Nova Scotia, and many of them fled to this part of New Brunswick. In 1881, Acadians met in Memramcook, south of Sackville, and debated whether to join other French settlers and become part of Québec. They decided against the union. The French influence is still strong along this shore.

Getting Around

To reach this region from the US border at St. Stephen or from Saint John, follow **Rte. 1** to Sussex, where you join **Trans-Canada-2**. This takes you to Moncton and on to Sackville. In Dieppe, just east of Moncton, you can go north on **Rte. 15**, which follows the coast to Cape Tormentine, or you can follow **Rte. 11** north from Shediac to explore the coast and Kouchibouguac National Park on your way to the Miramichi or Acadian Peninsula. The smaller, slower, but more direct route to Miramichi, **Rte. 126**, cuts off the coast through miles of largely unsettled woodland. It makes a good return route on which to avoid the coastal traffic.

Information Sources

Tourist information is available from the **Public Relations and Tourism Office** at City Hall, 774 Main St., Moncton, NB ☎ 506/853-3590, where you can get a free visitor guide and map of Moncton. From mid-May to Labor Day, a tourist information center at **Magnetic Hill**, on TransCanada-2 at the intersection with Rte. 126, has information on the entire area.

The **Sackville Information Centre** on East Main St. (Rte. 106) is staffed from June to October, ☎ 506/364-0431; from November through May, reach them at 506/364-0400.

In **Shediac** you can't miss the **Information Centre** on Main St., just as you enter town from Moncton, because of the giant 35-foot green lobster (quite a remarkable work of art) in front of it, ☎ 506/533-8800. The center is open from 9 am to 9 pm, June through September. The office has free e-mail and internet access. The **Day Adventure Centre**, at the same location, is open daily, 8:30-4:30.

In **Aulac**, there's a large **Provincial Welcome Centre** on TransCanada-2 at the Nova Scotia border, ☎ 506/364-4090. For information on the shore north of Shediac, contact the **Tourist Information Centre** at 21 rue Main in Richibucto, ☎ 506/523-4547.

Adventures

One of Canada's least known natural wonders is **Kouchibouguac National Park**, pronounced "COO-she-boo-quack," a long stretch of low shore and coastal plain protected by bands of barrier sand bars. It is a center for nature and outdoor activities, as well as an excellent place to camp and swim. Stop at the park headquarters to get a copy of the free magazine-sized publication, *The Osprey*, which gives information about the park's many facilities and nature programs. Walkers and cyclists should also buy a copy of the park trail map. For information on the park, contact them at ☎ 506/876-2443, fax 506/876-4802, e-mail kouch_info@pch.gc.ca. You must pay a fee of $3.50 per day, or $10.50 for a four-day pass, just to enter the park or use any of its facilities, including campgrounds, parking or hiking trails. Children under six are free, ages six-16 pay $1.75, and seniors pay $2.75. A family day pass is $7 for one day, $21 for four days. A season pass is $17.50, $8.25 for youth and $13.75 for seniors. The visitor center is open daily, 8:30 am to 7:30 pm.

■ On Foot

Kouchibouguac National Park is laced with walking and hiking trails. Some are as short and easy as the 10-minute walk on the boardwalk to Kelly's Beach, across tidal pools, inlets, and dunes to a true barrier island protecting the fragile wetland behind it. Interpretive panels explain the ecology, plants and bird life. You can hike through a variety of ecosystems: beach, lagoon, barrier island, marsh, bog, and river banks. Because the terrain of the park is low shoreline, none of the hikes has any noticeable ascent. Ten nature trails, from a quarter-mile to more than eight miles in length, are shown on the park's trail map, which you should buy at the Visitors' Centre.

FAVORITE TRAILS IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NAT'L PARK

■ The level **Osprey Trail** follows the Black River for about three miles, a good vantage point for seeing the birdlife along its banks, including osprey diving in the lagoons for fish.

■ Also rich in opportunities for bird viewing is the **Beaver Trail**, less than a mile long, surrounding a beaver pond that is a favored bird habitat.

■ The **Salt Marsh Trail** circles a marsh on a short (less than a half-mile) loop along a boardwalk.

■ The **Bog Trail**, about a mile long, leads across the bog on a boardwalk to an observation deck and to a tower with a good overview of the bog area.

■ The **Claire-Fontaine Trail** is about two miles long and follows the banks of Rankin Brook, which are steep at times, although the trail itself is level. It is mostly through forest, with nice views across the dunes of the delta.

■ The longest is the **Kouchibouguac River Trail**, which follows the river for about eight miles, passing the Sandstone Gardens, an interesting rock formation with a hanging red pine tree. A shorter route there is from La Source, which you can reach by car.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTE: Several trails in Kouchibouguac National Park are wheelchair-accessible. These are the short Pine and Cedar Trails, which go through a mature evergreen forest and a cedar swamp; Beaver Trail; Salt Marsh Trail; Kelly's Beach; Bog Trail; and Tweedie trail, along the Kouchibouguac River.

Escuminac Park on the southern shore of Miramichi Bay has an excellent beach for walking, with some unique natural attractions. Begin at the picnic area and walk east (to the right) along the beach, toward Point Escuminac. You will cross a creek which flows from the bog just inland. Soon the beach and bog meet, and you will walk underneath bluffs of peat moss, which get higher and higher, finally reaching more than 10 feet. Such oceanside bogs are quite rare (one of the few on the east coast of the United States is at Quoddy Head in Maine) and it is interesting to see the layers of peat and contemplate how long it took them to form. When you reach the lighthouse (not a picturesque old one), you have to return along the same route. The round-trip is about eight miles. If you are a dedicated beachcomber, you will like the coves along this beach, and will return with full pockets.

For a shorter walk along the same shoreline to see the exposed peat layers, as well as the fascinating sea-worn rock formations and puddingstone, drive down the road past the park all the way to the lighthouse. The pavement ends and the uneven road surface may be covered in puddles if it has rained recently, but the drive is as interesting as the walk along the shore. At about halfway, there is a huge osprey nest on a pole, which offers a good chance of seeing the birds up close if you stop the car and stay quite still.

South of the national park, the **Bouctouche Sandbar** is a seven-mile strip of sand almost enclosing Bouctouche Bay. You can walk along the waterline (to avoid the strenuous work of slogging through the soft beach sand or the equally sandy road along the bar's center) to a lighthouse at the tip. The entrance to the bar is just south of Saint-Louis-de-Kent. The Irving Eco-Centre La Dune de Bouctouche (see page 211) protects an eco-

system of rare plants, nesting terns and plover, fragile marsland and dunes.

The **South Richibucto Sandbar** is a little shorter (five miles) and without a lighthouse, but still a lovely beach walk. Follow Rte. 505 from Richibucto Village to Cap-Lumière, turning left along the shore until the road peters out. On this bar, the road is better for walking and the views are best on the inland (left) side. When offered a choice, stick to the left, where you can see over the marsh toward the neighboring island and mainland.

In Sackville, a trail leads into the **Sackville Waterfowl Park** from St. Paul's Anglican Church at the corner of King and East Main streets in the center of town. Another trail enters opposite the Information Centre on East Main St., where you can park your car. Trails and boardwalks cross the 55-acre marsh, a habitat reserved for birds and other wildlife (and the people who enjoy watching them). Nine species of duck breed there, and 150 other bird varieties may be seen. The park is open daily from 5 am until half an hour after sunset. Ask at the information center for a schedule of guided bird walks and for the brochure containing a map of trails and descriptions of flora and fauna in each of the park's habitats, which include open water, meadow, marsh and woods. At the far end of the park is a picnic area and the offices of the Canadian Wildlife Service, where there are interpretive displays on wetlands and the wildlife they support.

You can explore the **Tintamarre National Wildlife Refuge** from High Marsh Rd. in Upper Sackville. Look for a "crossroad" about six miles from the covered bridge; the smaller road to the left is the trail, which follows dikes and canals through the marsh, where you are bound to see abundant birds, especially the black ducks that nest here.

Guided Walking Tours

The Day Adventures program features a guided 1½-hour walking tour of the **Waterfowl Park** and the adjoining areas of the **Tantramar Marshes**, with historical and nature interpretation and a chance to use dipping nets to investigate the smaller creatures that inhabit the wetland ecosystem. Tours leave from the Sackville Information Centre daily, June-August, at 1 pm. The cost is $4 for adults, $3 for children, and $8.25 for family of four, and includes beverage, a granola bar, and a souvenir of the park. The tour is wheelchair-accessible. ☎ 506/364-4967 for information.

■ On Wheels

Kouchibouguac National Park has more than 20 miles of level, nicely-surfaced bike trails through its interior and along the water. The longest extends from Rte. 117 near the bridge over the Kouchibouguac River all the way to Kelly's Beach and along the sea front, where it reconnects to Rte. 117. About half its length is along the

river bank and shore. The primitive campground at Petit-Large is only accessible by bicycle or on foot. Under construction is a 17-mile cycling trail that will reach from Saint-Louis-de-Kent to Point Sapin, and which will open some fine scenery through a wilderness area. A mountain bike trail is about four miles long, and begins at the Petit-Large shelter, ending at the Major Kollock Creek parking lot. Boardwalks carry the trail over wet areas, where moose are not an uncommon sight. Rent bicycles for about $5 an hour, $24 a day or $30 for two days at **Ryan's Rental Center** (☎ 506/876-3733) in the park, open weekends from late May to mid-June; daily until 9 pm through the first week of September.

You can also rent bicycles in the area at **Bouctouche Bay Chalet & Campground** (☎ 506/743-2848) in Saint-Edouard, about five miles from Bouctouche.

Sackville's portion of the former rail line has been converted to a cycling path along the border of the Waterfowl Park. This short section is reached from Dooly's on Bridge St.; the longer segments are accessed next to the Tantramar Regional High School.

Gary's Bicycle Rentals, at 239 Weldon St. in Moncton (☎ 506/855-2394 or 877/858-8754), has bicycles for on and off-road use, at $25-$32 daily or $45-$59 for a weekend.

Pumpkin Inn B&B, at 9 Mill St. in Port Elgin (☎ 506/538-2445) rents both bicycles and canoes. They are easy to find near the Spring St. entrance to the TransCanada Trail; follow the distinctive pumpkin signs.

GUIDED BICYCLE TOURS

■ In Shediac, a four-mile bicycle path/walking trail leads from the center of town to Parlee Beach. **Unique Plus Adventures** leads bike tours in the area, ☎ 506/532-8898.

■ **Hub City Wheelers** in Moncton (☎ 506/386-1617 or 506/386-4481) sponsor Wednesday evening rides at 6:30 pm from May through October. They leave from Victoria Park and choose routes and distances to suit all cycling skills. Weekend day and overnight trips are scheduled throughout the season, some beginning in Moncton, others in Shediac, Kouchibouguac, Cocagne, Memramcook, and locations outside the immediate area, such as Grand Manan. Leaders and assistants are part of every group. Membership is $20 for an entire season. The highlight of the year is the annual Century Ride in August, with two routes; one is 100 miles, the other 100 km (60 miles). Both begin in Riverview, just outside Moncton, and travel west toward Petitcodiac.

■ On Water

Beaches

By far the best-known (and most used) beaches in the province, perhaps in all of Atlantic Canada, are those miles of golden sand that stretch east and north from Shediac. Warm and shallow water, fine clean sand in low flat bars, and tourist facilities geared to families with water-loving children make it the destination of nearly half a million tourists each season. Since the area is Francophonic, many of these visitors are from Québec and other French-speaking areas of Canada.

Parlee Beach east of Shediac is the most crowded in the high season, but others north and east of the town are almost as warm and certainly less crowded. To find these smaller beaches, leave Rte. 15 or Rte. 11 and follow the roads along the waterfront, such as routes 134, 950, 955, 530, 475 or 505. One of these beaches, at the tip of Cap-Pelé east of Shediac, is being "improved" by the addition of park facilities, a canteen, a bar, a new road and a parking lot, so you can expect it to become quite crowded in the near future. Windsurfing equipment can be rented for $15 and hour or $60 a day at **Sandy Beach** in Cap-Pelé from **Surf Ouest**, ☎ 506/577-2218.

Several more small beaches punctuate the shore near **Grand Digue** and **Cap Cocagne**, north of Shediac. Look for small "beach" signs or just follow small roads shoreward until you see a strip of sand – or a lot of cars parked along the road. Some of these beaches, such as the one at Cap Cocagne, appear only at low tide.

Beaches at **Kouchibouguac National Park**, unlike those only a little farther south on the Northumberland Strait, can be chilly – or downright cold – from the waters of the Labrador current, but by mid-July can be as warm as 70°. Inside the protected lagoons the water is bathtub warm on sunny summer days. Lifeguards are on duty at **Kelly's Beach**, which makes it more crowded than the unguarded ones where you'll find lots more room to spread your beach towel.

North of the national park at the outer edge of Miramichi Bay, **Escuminac Family Beach** has excellent surf and dunes, with new boardwalks to protect the latter. South of the the park in Richibucto is **Jardine Park**, with a good sandy (but unsupervised) beach, changing facilities, picnic area and campground. Day admission is $2.50 per car.

Canoeing & Kayaking

Eight Class I (flatwater) rivers in Kouchibouguac National Park are easily toured by paddle-power. There's a put-in ramp at Cap-Saint-Louis and another at Loggiecroft Marina. You can put in at Saint-Louis-de-Kent without paying park entrance fees. Canoe, kayak and boat rentals are available at **Ryan's Rental Center**, ☎ 506/876-2443. Ryan's is near the South campground, and open June through September from 8 am to 9 pm.

Spring and fall hours are shorter. Expect to pay about $7 for an hour's canoe rental or $30 for a day. Single kayaks are about $7 an hour; doubles are $12, with no day-rate on either. Campsites accessible by canoe are available from mid-May to mid-October in the park for a fee of $10 for two people, plus $2 for each additional person in a site. Firewood is included.

Single and double kayaks are available for rent at **Vents d'ete**, at the port at Cap de Cocagne, ☎ 506/576-7011. Rentals are from $10 to $17 an hour; per-hour rates drop with longer rentals. Instruction is $20 an hour. Lifejackets are included in the rental price. Vents d'ete is open 10 am to 9 pm, with the last rental at 8 pm.

South East Paddle Sports, at 4952 Main St. in Dorchester (☎ 877/86-BINGO) sells kayaks and canoes and is a center for information about paddling waters and tours. It's a good place to stop if you are touring the area with your own kayak or canoe, or if you are looking for a tour to join.

Pumpkin Inn B&B, at 9 Mill St. in Port Elgin (☎ 506/538-2445) rents canoes. They are easy to find; just follow their distinctive pumpkin signs.

CANOE & KAYAK OUTFITTERS /GUIDED TOURS

■ A 10-passenger canoe operated by **Voyageur Marine Adventure** gives those who would prefer to share the paddling a chance to see seals, common terns and piping plover at close range. Three-hour tours of the offshore sandbars leave daily, and cost $25 ($15 for under 12); for reservations, ☎ 506/876-2443. This is also the place to contact if you're interested in the Day Adventure "Voyageur Paddle Adventure," which is guided by a park interpreter. The three-hour canoe tour includes rental, instruction, and a light lunch for $25 ($15 for ages six-16).

■ **Kayakouch** in Saint-Louis-de-Kent, ☎ 506/876-1199, fax 506/876-1918, leads half-day kayak excursions with instruction in paddling, lunch, snacks, and all equipment. They welcome first-time kayakers as well as experienced paddlers. These trips explore the warm coastal waters of Kouchibouguac National Park, visiting lagoons, sandy beaches, barrier dunes, a colony of 300 grey seals, an island tern colony, piping plover and other fascinating birds of this rich shoreline. More than a paddling excursion, these trips are filled with nature and historical interpretation, offering a chance to look at this varied national park from a new perspective. The human and natural history intertwine in the stories told by Nicole Daigle and Victor Savoie during these tours. Both are knowledgeable, and are good raconteurs as well as keen naturalists. You can reserve a space on their popular trips either directly or through the Day Adventures program. Evening paddles ($35) are cultural in focus and include a campfire by the river. The cost for a half-day guided trip is $50 per person; an eight-hour trip is $100. Their three-day, two-night trip on the river explores the Black Lands Gully, a seal colony, shorebird habitats, the lagoon, estuary and dunes. The trip, including equipment and all meals, costs $300 per person. Kayakouch also rents kayaks, charging $28 for five hours, $45 for 24 hours for a single, and $45 and $75 for a double.

■ **KayaBèCano** in Bouctouche (☎ 888/KAYABEC or 506/743-6265) has two-hour sea kayaking excursions which include a detailed history and account of the life cycle and harvest of oysters. The tour includes equipment and instruction, and a good snack. The cost is $25 per adult, $10 for ages 10-16, and $5 under 10. This may also be booked through the Day Adventures program, and reservations are necessary.

KID FRIENDLY: Nicole Daigle of Kayakouch is the author of a charming book for children, *Cristalo sur la Dune de Kouchibouguac*, stories of a grain of sand, a red fox and a snail in the national park. If you can read French, the book is a good way to introduce children to the language.

Boat Tours

5 D Tours Ecotourism, Inc. runs boat tours from May through October from Shediac's waterfront; they leave from the wharf by the Tourist Information Centre. Tours inspect a fish processing and smoking plant in Cap-Pelé, a shipyard for fishing boats and wave-carved sandstone cliffs. Prices are about $25 for adults, $15 for children six-14. River cruises with onboard naturalists explore the St. Louis River and Kouchibouguac Na-

tional Park, visiting habitats of seabirds and grey seals, and Tern Island, the second-largest tern colony in North America. The latter trips may be two hours ($29) or four hours ($45); longer ones include a guided walk in the dunes. They leave three times daily, mid-June through mid-September, from Saint-Louis-de-Kent, five minutes from the park. ☎ 506/576-1994, 800/716-TOUR, fax 506/576-6660 for reservations. Shorter sunset cruises include a traditional musician or storyteller, and sunrise trips include breakfast on board.

The 40-foot cabin cruiser ***Claire-Fontaine*** visits the tern colonies and seals, also with a naturalist on board, leaving from Ryan's Rentals in Kouchibouguac National Park. Two-hour narrated cruises cost $28 for adults, $14 for children, and run from mid-June to late September, ☎ 506/876-4212.

On a cruise by **Classy Tours** of Cape Tormentine, ☎ 506/538-2981, you can take a boat under the giant spans of the new bridge to Prince Edward Island and hear about the construction of the longest bridge in the western hemisphere. Then try your hand at hauling lobster traps as you learn about these delicious crustaceans. The cost for a two-hour tour is $25 for adults and $15 for children; boats leave from the Marine Atlantic terminal and can be reserved through the Day Adventure program.

Sailing

KayaBèCano in Bouctouche offers an exciting Day Adventure of sailing, where you can learn sailing techniques and get hands-on experience. The two-hour excursion with guides and a snack is $30 per adult and $10 for children 12 and under; ☎ 506/743-6265.

Down East Chartering at Cap-de-Cocagne, 10 miles north of Shediac, ☎ 506/533-6253, offers three-hour sailing cruises in the Northumberland Strait three times daily for $29 per person, or day-long cruises for $89. A live-aboard overnight sailing trip with hands-on instruction on sail handling costs $189 per person.

Learn to sail in a full-day, hands-on course aboard ***Tradewinds***, a 25-foot sailboat out of Shediac Bay Marina, ☎ 506/866-5441. *Tradewinds* and the 36-foot *Escapade* are also available for cruises of five hours to several days. Day or sunset sails leave at 10 am and 4 pm, and cost $25-50 per person. Longer trips with on-board accommodations are $300 per day.

T & T Sail Charters in Shediac also offer full- and half-day cruises that include sailing instruction and an experience guided by the captain. Both cruises include a lobster roll and beverage. Full-day (six hours) $75, half-day (four hours) $50, available seven days a week. ☎ 506/533-4878.

Fishing

Lobster fishing trips are offered by **5 D Tours Ecotourism, Inc.**, Saint-Louis-de-Kent, ☎ 506/576-1994 or 800/716-TOUR, fax 506/576-6660.

One of our favorite boat trips from Shediac is the spirited **Lobster Tales** Day Adventure with Shediac Bay Cruises. Eric LeBlanc conducts a lively exploration of the lobster fishing industry, taking visitors on his lobster boat to haul in a trap, examine its workings and the lobsters in the day's catch. The trip culminates with a lobster dinner, where Eric instructs passengers on the fine art of extracting every last morsel from the shell as the boat is transformed into a floating dining room. We've taken few boat excursions that were as informative or as much fun – even to those of us who can't remember cracking into our first lobster. The 2½-hour cruise and meal are $42 for adults, $26 for children aged 12 and under, or $125 for a family of four. Other cruises include a fishing trip ($29 adult, $16 child, $80 family) and bay cruises at 7:30 pm Friday-Sunday. They operate mid-May to mid-September, from the Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf in Shediac; ☎ 506/532-2175 or 888/894-2002, www.lobstertales.net.

Shediac Bay Cruises offers a 2½-hour Day Adventure that includes fishing, equipment, and refreshments, for $28 per adult, $16 for children under 12. ☎ 506/532-2175 or 888/894-2002.

TIP: To learn all about the life cycle and farming of oysters, as well as the local history of the trade, take the Day Adventure "The Great Oyster Mystery" with **KayaBèCano** in Bouctouche (see page 202).

■ On Snow

Kouchibouguac National Park is the centerpiece of winter activity on the eastern coast, with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter walking trails, in addition to areas used for tobogganing. Two trails in the park are groomed for winter walkers – those who prefer not to use either skis or snowshoes. The park does charge a trail fee for use in the winter, but we think the warming huts provided there make it well worth the cost.

Skiing

Cross-country skiing is very popular in this region of low coastal landscapes. **Club de Ski de Fond Boules de Niege,** the local ski club for the National Park area, sponsors a purely recreational loppet (cross-country meet) in early March, ☎ 506/876-2443. Many local parks have shorter trail systems that you can find through local clubs, many of which are responsible for maintaining the trails. Contact the **Beaver Cross-Coun-**

try Ski Club in Cocagne, ☎ 506/576-7927. In the Moncton area trails are maintained and events sponsored by the **Riverview Cross-Country Ski Club**, ☎ 506/386-4754.

SKI-AND-STAY PACKAGES

The **Kouchibouguac Motel and Restaurant** (☎ 506/876-2407, fax 506/876-4318) in Saint-Louis-de-Kent south of the park entrance on Rte. 134, has its own ski trail connecting to the 18 miles of groomed trails in the park, so you can literally ski right out your door. The motel rents skis and boots (with discounts to guests) and provides free ski trail maps. A package with two nights lodging, breakfasts, and a candlelit German dinner with wine is $195 per couple.

Chalets du Havre Vacation Resort in Richibucto has a nice set of individual cabins near Kouchibouguac, with kitchen facilities, gas fireplaces and whirlpool tubs. From the resort, more than 18 miles of cross-country trails are available. Warming huts are located along the trails. A package for two nights, with breakfast in their restaurant, movie rental and a liter of wine is $260 per couple; additional persons are $40 each. The resort is at 79 York St., Richibucto, NB E4W 4K1; ☎ 506/523-1570 or 800/277-9037, fax 523-9770, www. chaletsduhave.nb.ca, e-mail chalet@nb.sympatico.ca.

Habitant Motel (☎ 506/523-4421) in Richibucto near Kouchibouguac National Park has cross-country ski trails leading right from the door, connecting to the park's extensive trail network.

Little Shemogue Country Inn (☎ 506/538-2320, fax 506/538-7494) in Port Elgin adds a little romance to the package with a deluxe room, a five-course candlelight dinner in their highly acclaimed restaurant, a bottle of wine or champagne, snowshoes or a day of cross-country skiing or skating on the bay, all for about $200 a couple.

Kouchibouguac National Park's 18 miles of groomed trails are particularly attractive, not only for the stunning views from its mixture of wooded and open trails, but for the services along the way. Warming cabins with wood stoves and washrooms, as well as picnic tables, are spaced at closer than two-mile intervals, making this particularly attractive to families with small children or Sunday skiers who need to stop and rest often. The terrain is nearly level.

The cycling path on the former rail line in **Sackville**, bordering Waterfowl Park, is used for cross-country skiing in the winter. See *On Wheels*, page 199, for access information. **Beech Hill Park**, also in Sackville, has two marked trails of one and two miles respectively.

Moncton's 450-acre **Centennial Park** has three ski trails, one of which is lighted at night. The nine miles of trails are particularly scenic, crossing several bridges over a brook.

Snowmobiling

The province-wide network of snowmobile trails is well represented along the coast, with a through trail extending from the Nova Scotia border to Miramichi and several inland trails connecting to create shorter circuit routes. Spur trails extend to Cape Tormentine and to Point Escuminac on Miramichi Bay.

Several lodgings are located close to trails and offer special winter rates and packages that include such extras as meals or wine. At the **Habitant Restaurant and Motel** (☎ 506/523-4421) in Richibucto you can rent snowmobiles or take advantage of a winter package designed for beginners that includes a day of guided snowmobiling with dinner at the restaurant.

Chalets Nicholas (☎ 506/577-6420, fax 506/577-6422) in Robichaud (east of Shediac) offers a guided day excursion along the shore to the new Confederation Bridge, in a program designed especially for beginners. Snowmobiles and suit, insurance, instruction, guide, a hot lunch and a traditional Acadian dinner are included in the package for $270 a person or $300 for a couple sharing a snowmobile.

SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

- The local snowmobile club in Shediac is **Safari 2000**, reached at ☎ 506/532-3074.
- **Southeastern New Brunswick Snowmobile Association** is in Riverview near Moncton, ☎ 506/387-4131.
- **Winter Wanderers** covers the Port Elgin area, ☎ 506/538-7877.
- Near Kouchibouguac, contact the **Rexton Snowmobile Club** at ☎ 506/523-9252.

Dogsledding, Sleigh Rides & Skating

East Coast Dogsledding (☎ 506/743-8670) in Saint-Anne-de-Kent between Rexton and Bouctouche, combines dogsledding with winter fishing for speckled trout in their open pond in a Day Adventure package for $70. You get to keep a trout. Or you can opt for just the dogsledding.

Kouchibouguac National Park maintains tobogganing areas for which winter access fees are charged. You can arrange a sleigh ride at **Centennial Park** in Moncton by calling ☎ 506/853-3510, or take advantage of one of the winter packages offered by **Hotel Beauséjour**, which

includes a sleigh outing at the park. Centennial Park also has a skating rink with a warming hut.

Chalets Nicholas in Robichaud (east of Shediac) has outdoor skating, with a clubhouse, ☎ 506/577-6420, fax 506/577-6422.

Kick Sleds

While kick sleds are quite common in Finland and elsewhere in Scandinavia, they are not often used in this hemisphere. Particularly good for families with small children, they combine sport for the driver with a sled-ride for a youngster. Picture an old-fashioned two-wheeled scooter with runners instead of wheels and a passenger seat under the handle bars; this will give you an idea of what they look like. **La Suite du Fond d'la Baie** (☎ 506/743-6265) in Bouctouche offers a half-day guided kick sled excursion along the town's remarkable dunes, followed by a fireside dinner of buffalo and a night's lodging, for $150 a couple. Children under 10 stay free. Or you can take a two-hour guided sled excursion followed by a hearty lunch, for $20 ($10 per child; free under age 10).

■ On Horseback

Maple Leaf Icelandic Horse Farm at Richibucto River Resort in Upper Rexton, ☎ 506/523-4480, has groomed riding trails through its 150 acres of woodland. Icelandic horses, which have five natural gaits, are the smoothest-riding horses in the world, perfect for beginners and a joy for experienced riders. The horses are a little difficult to control at times, but they are gentle, the instructors and guides are excellent and the facilities are top notch. Riding lessons (45 minutes) are $35 for private and $25 for group lessons. Trail rides are $28 per hour, $46 for a two-hour trip (available as a Day Adventure), $75 for a four-hour ride along the beach with a picnic. Overnight trips are $150, which includes dinner and breakfast.

Outlaws Retreat Trail Rides, on Rte. 106 in Dorchester, offers a horseback Day Adventure with a three-hour ride and instruction, plus a picnic. The ride is $40 per person, and can be scheduled for mornings, afternoons, or evenings; ☎ 506/379-1014. Overnight camp-outs and other activities are also available. In addition to the usual season, they also offer riding between mid-September and June. In the summer they run a six-day riding camp for children; each child has their own horse and a family barbecue is held at the end of the week. The cost of this program is $225. In the winter they are equipped for sleigh rides.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

At the crossroads of travel since the earliest days of settlement, this area has a rich blend of people of French, English, Irish and German origins. Most of the shore is Acadian country, where you will hear French spoken more than English. Moncton is 30% Francophone; here you'll find the French-language Université de Moncton and its free **Musée Acadien** in the Clement Cormier Building, ☎ 506/858-4088. The museum's collections visually document the daily life and culture of the Acadians who settled here after being driven out of Nova Scotia. Summer hours: Monday-Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. The rest of the year they are open Tuesday-Friday, 1 to 4:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 pm. The museum can be reached by heading north on Archibald Street in Moncton.

Also at the Université de Moncton is one of Canada's best collections of Inuit art, on display at **Bibliotheque Champlain**. It is open from September through April on weekdays from 8:30 am to 11 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. The Fine Collection of Inuit Art has 242 works by 150 artists.

Mount Allison University atop the hill in the center of Sackville had the first art museum in Eastern Canada, the **Owens Art Gallery**, established in 1894. The gallery is free and open year-round; weekdays, 10 am to 5 pm, and weekend afternoons in the summer; shorter hours the rest of the year. ☎ 506/364-2574 for information. Its collections emphasize works by European and North American artists, and it has made Sackville a center for artists. The university also has a museum of fossils housed in the **Avard Dixon Building**. The collection and other displays on the history of the earth are open to the public on weekdays, 9 am to 5 pm, and on weekend afternoons.

Struts Center art gallery on Lorne St. off West Main St. in Sackville, ☎ 506/536-1211, shows and sells works by numerous nationally known artists who live and work in the area.

An almost lost art is alive and well at the **Sackville Harness Shop**, the only manufacturer of handmade horse collars in North America. They are at 50 West Main St. at the top of the hill.

At the **Micmac Basket Museum**, 9 Reserve Rd., Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-9000, you can explore the land with a cultural interpretation by a Micmac Elder on the Time Walk Trail. "A Micmac Experience" includes a walking tour with a cultural narration from the native's perspective, as well as admission to the museum and seasonal snacks. You will learn about their harvesting and hunting and experience a traditional smudging ceremony. This tour costs $8.50 for adults, $4.50 for children, or $30 for a family of four, and operates from mid-June through mid-September.

Le Pays de la Sagouine would be a theme park anywhere else, but in New Brunswick this Acadian stage-set town becomes a charming mixture of real history and culture, within the fictional world created in the well-loved works of Antonine Maillet. Her enduring and endearing main character, La Sagouine (the sage) captures the imagination at once, even for those who have not read Maillet's books. The entire village that forms the oyster shell of La Sagouine's daily life has been re-created as a living theater, on an island in the river at Bouctouche. The setting is Acadian New Brunswick during the lean years of the Depression, as La Sagouine toils with her scrub brush cleaning other people's houses. The homes and shops of the Acadian village created here are filled with historical artifacts, the tools, furnishings and utensils of everyday life, so they are as much a living history museum as fictional setting for the daily encounters between the characters. These comic exchanges and toe-tapping musical interludes fill the day on the island, and in the evening the action moves to the dining-room on the shore for a full dinner theater performance. Although all the dialogue is in French, the performers are so good that you will understand a bit, and certainly enjoy the music even if you speak not a word of French.

In the village itself, the costumed interpreters in the houses are bilingual, and well versed in the life and times the village portrays. They are also witty and engaging, making your visit an experience far beyond simply seeing the buildings and listening to the musical performances. Acadian food is part of the experience, and this is a good place to sample *poutine rapée* and other local specialties. Before visiting the village, tour the visitors center and see the film – even if you have read the books.

The village is open daily, 10-6, from mid-June through Labor Day weekend. The dinner theater is offered five nights a week, at 6:30 pm; it's very popular, so it is important to reserve a few days ahead. You can reserve the combined theater and day admission through the Day Adventure program for $49; admission only is $7 adults, $4 children. You'll see the island village and the boardwalk that connects it to the shore, as you drive past on Rte. 11. 57 Acadie St., Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-1400 or 800/561-9188, www.sagouine.com.

TIP: If you don't speak French, or if your French is either rusty or Parisian, we suggest you choose a dinner theater night with a musical production, instead of a theatrical one. Although much of the comedy is universal and you will follow the plot through the excellent acting, an evening of music may be more enjoyable, as you will feel less left out of the laughter all around you.

Monument Lefebvre National Historic Site, off Rte. 106 in Memramcook (☎ 506/758-9783) explores the Acadians' odyssey from their deportation from Nova Scotia to the present day. Interactive exhibits and films follow their route, cultural and political history, while special events celebrate their culture today. The center is located in the imposing building of the former College Saint-Joseph, the first French language degree-granting institution in Atlantic Canada.

Moncton has a **Farmers Market** at 132 Robinson St. on Saturday from 7 am to 1 pm, and on Wednesday from noon to 4 pm. Canadian and other ethnic foods make the market a good lunch stop; look for shish-kebab, farm sausage, homemade breads, pastries and fresh meats and produce. Crafts also have a prominent place here. The market is between Main Street and the river, ☎ 506/383-1749.

For many people in Moncton, the highlight of the market is the chance to sip a cup of the superior coffee made by **Down East Coffee Company**. Fortunately, the market isn't the only place you can get it; you'll find Down East served in a few of the better restaurants and at their own café on Rte. 115 in Notre Dame, near Saint-Antoine (☎ 506/576-9292 or 888/224-2233). In addition to the café and welcome espresso bar (espresso is not common in Atlantic Canada), Down East Coffee Roasters offers two-hour evening programs that explore coffee and its culture. The subjects will depend on the interests of people attending, and may examine health or social issues as well as show how coffee is roasted. Owner Terry Montague's enthusiasm is contagious as he describes (and serves) "a passionate coffee that fills all the senses." The history of the coffee bean, how it grows, when and how it is picked, dried, stored and roasted make the evening fly, and the rare coffees sampled in the course – not to mention the decadent dessert that accompanies them – are well worth its $30 cost. The programs are available through the Day Adventures program or you can reserve by calling the store, where you can also buy coffee during normal business hours. We liked his comparisons of coffee to music: "Stale, commercial or improperly roasted coffee is like rap music – it has only one note."

To sample some extraordinary French farmhouse ewe cheeses, and to tour the farm and the cheesemaking dairy, visit **La Bergerie aux 4 Vents**, at 100-R Alban Leger Rd., Sainte-Marie-de-Kent, ☎ 506/525-9633. Monique Roussel is the only sheep-cheese-maker in Atlantic Canada, and the product is outstanding. A 1½-hour cheese tour shows the entire process, from milking sheep and making the cheese to sampling it with fresh fruits. The farm's Tomme, a semi-hard cheese, is aged four months. Along with the cheese, you'll have a chance to sample some lamb delicacies. The farm is open year-round, and Monique operates a classy B&B there as well. She serves dinner by reservation, featuring lamb she has raised on the farm. The cost of a tour is $10 for adults, $5 for children, and you can reserve through the Day Adventures program or visit the farm between 9 am and 4 pm from June through October.

Chez Les Maury is New Brunswick's first cooperative winery, and you can visit their vineyards to stroll through the grapes, elderberries and blueberries or buy the wines. All the wines and liqueurs are made from their own fruits and include a dry red table wine made from grapes, dry and sweet blueberry wines, a semi-dry elderberry wine and a strawberry dessert wine. The vineyard and small shop are open 10-6, and tastings cost $2. Tours that include a tasting are $5; please call ahead for reservations. You'll find them on Rte. 475 in Saint-Edouard-de-Kent; ☎ 506/743-5347, www.ferme-maury.com. See *Camping*, page 224, for information on the campground at the vineyard.

La Savonniere, which makes fine artisanal soaps in Sainte-Anne-de-Kent, offers an unusual experience, as well as a lovely store. Each day at 11 am, 4 pm and 7 pm, Isabel Gagne makes soap in the shop, explaining the process as she works. You don't need a reservation to watch. The shop sells an astounding variety of soaps in all colors, shapes and fragrances, custom-made for different skin types. Everything is so beautifully displayed and packaged that it's like a gourmet shop of soaps. Each is labeled with its ingredients and special purpose; kits are available to make your own glycerine soaps. The shop, located on Rte. 505, is open from mid-June to early September, 10-8 daily; during the rest of the year it's open Monday through Friday, 10-5; weekends 2-5. ☎ 506/743-8511, www.olivier-soap.com.

Pick your own fresh strawberries in July at **Poirier Farm** on Chemin Perry Rd. in Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-2922.

■ Natural Areas & Wildlife

An important wetland and dune system has been protected, while making it accessible to the public, by the extensive **Irving Eco-Centre La Dune de Bouctouche**, on Rte. 475 about five miles north of Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-2600. The dunes at Bouctouche are among the few large sand dune systems remaining on the northeast coast of the continent, and a long, wide boardwalk runs much of their length. Stairways are interspersed along it with boardwalks onto the beach, which is suitable for swimming or walking. The entire area is filled with birdlife. Free programs and tours led by staff naturalists are held throughout the day, every day in July and August. In the spring and fall, tours are conducted on weekends, but only by advance reservation. As you explore the dunes, the naturalist discusses the fragile ecology of the shifting sand and the salt marsh habitat behind them. You'll learn about the creatures that live on the beach, dunes, marsh and in the estuary, and about the human history of the area. The tours and programs last from an hour to 90 minutes. The interpretive center is well done, with interactive nature and environmental exhibits to interest all ages. We like the bird puzzles and the telephones that allow you to hear bird calls. The center is open daily in the summer, 1-8 pm.

The marshlands around Sackville and along the isthmus between there and the Nova Scotia border are world-class birding sites. Each summer the surrounding wetlands provide nesting sites for dozens of species of waterfowl and in August migrating shorebirds stop here – as many as half a million in a single flock. Sackville's **Waterfowl Park**, where 160 species have been recorded, begins right in the center of town (see *On Foot*, above) and **Tintamarre National Wildlife Area**, **Eddy Marsh**, **Fort Beauséjour** and **Cape Tormentine** all offer prime bird habitats. **Dorchester Cape**, at the end of the Bay of Fundy, has over 50,000 sandpipers daily during the birds' migration season in late July and early August. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons are sighted here, too. The Sackville Information Centre can give you a copy of the *Bird-Finding Guide* to help you locate the best places.

INSIDE ADVICE: The Moncton Naturalists' Club publishes a very useful booklet called *Birding in the Moncton Area*, which includes birding sites throughout the region from Sackville to Mary's Point. Trail maps and access information are good, and the bird lists tell exactly where you are likely to find each species. Their information line (☎ 506/384-6397) has recorded information on unique species and seasonal sitings. To order the booklet, which costs $4, contact Birdwatcher's Wild Bird Store in Edgett's Landing (see page 88).

You can tour the **Tantramar Marshes** with the help of a self-guiding map and narratives, available free from the Information Centre in Sackville. The tour covers the largest man-made agricultural landmass in Canada, reclaimed from the sea by the use of dikes, canals and *aboiteaux* (drainage gates) by the Acadians in the 1700s. The tour includes short walks with driving.

Westcock Marsh, off Rte. 935 between West Sackville and Westcock, has a three-mile loop trail that follows one of these dikes along the sea. Along with good views, the dike provides a look at the marsh environment and its rich birdlife.

In late July and early August, the migration of a number of bird species, particularly sandpipers, reaches its height in the nutrient-rich mudflats at **Johnsons Mills**, south of Sackville. More than two million birds converge here, and one of the best ways to understand the phenomenon you are seeing is with a biologist as a guide.

THE ACADIAN ABOITEAUX

The early Acadian settlers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia found a way to grow crops in the rich sedimentary soil of the tidal valleys fed by the unusually high Bay of Fundy tides. Twice each day, tides of 20 or 30 feet wash in to fill long estuaries, covering acres and acres of mud flats. The Acadians devised a system of sea walls so strong that they could withstand the power of this wall of water. They began by planting several rows of strong trees at the points where the sea entered the marshes. Between these rows they laid cut trees in parallel stacks, filling the spaces between them with well-beaten clay to make them watertight. In the center of each of these dikes they made a trap-door – the aboiteau – to allow river water to flow out at low tide, but not let the sea flow in at high tide. While these held back normal tides, they purposely fell short of the extreme tides, allowing these to occasionally enrich the soil with their deposits.

Farther north, look for shorebirds and others – a total of 225 have been identified here – at **Kouchibouguac National Park**. Trails along the Black and Kouchibouguac Rivers provide the best variety, but the Bog Trail is also fruitful for birders. To learn what current sightings are, call either the **Moncton Naturalist Club**, ☎ 506/384-6397, or the **New Brunswick Bird Information Line**, ☎ 506/382-3825.

Magnetic Hill Zoo, off TransCanada-2 just outside of Moncton, has Canadian natives, such as the Arctic wolf, and rare exotics, including Siberian tigers and dromedary camels. At 1 pm daily, join a staff member for "Meet the Keeper" and learn about particularly interesting animals. A special exhibit shows examples of the products that contribute to the depletion of rare animals, of particular interest to travelers who might not otherwise recognize objects made from endangered species. Open daily, mid-May through mid-October, 9 am to dusk, ☎ 506/384-0303. Admission is $4.

Moncton is one of the best places to see the **tidal bore**, a wall of water that is pushed into the estuary's mud flats by the tremendous forces of the Fundy tides. A wide, deep gully of dark mud fills twice a day, as water is compressed into a very narrow space. Less dramatic than it was before the construction of a causeway, the sudden rise is still worth seeing. Go to Bore View Park, where a large sign gives the time of the tide's next sudden arrival.

Sightseeing

New Brunswick native Andrew Bonar Law was Prime Minister of Great Britain in the 1920s, having challenged Lloyd George for the position after serving as Chancellor during World War I. His farm is now a museum, the **Bonar Law Historic Site**, with the house he lived in, farm buildings complete with livestock and a new interpretive museum that examines his career, local history and the culture of the local Micmac. The museum shows some fine examples of Micmac bark and beadwork, decoys, arrowheads and twig furniture made for trade. These, along with household and maritime artifacts are nicely displayed and the historical exhibits tell the story of the Richibucto area. The house is furnished with interesting implements of daily life, including an early hearing aid, a tin bathtub and a low iron cookstove style common to New Brunswick. Costumed interpreters go about some of the farm and household tasks, which they discuss with visitors, often sharing some food of the 1880s period that they have prepared in the kitchen. The site is open July through September. Rte. 11 in Texton; ☎ 800/561-0123. Free.

HISTORIC INTEREST: Richibucto is one of the oldest settlements in New Brunswick, its woodlands once a source of spars and masts for the Royal Navy. The firm of Cunard and Jardine was founded here, originally under the name of Jardine, which built the first Canadian square-rigger in 1819. Jardine ships crossed the Atlantic in as little as 16 days; more than 200 vessels were built by the firm between 1818 and 1894.

Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park, near Aulac at the Nova Scotia border, ☎ 506/536-0720, overlooks the Tantramar Marshes and the inner edges of the Bay of Fundy. Built by the French, it was captured in 1755 by New England militia under British command and renamed Fort Cumberland. You can walk the earthworks and explore the underground passages as you learn about this tempestuous time in Canadian history, when this area played a pivotal role in the determination of which country would own Canada and New England. Admission is $2.50 for adults, less for seniors and children; the fort is open daily, 9 am to 5 pm, June through late October.

One of Eastern Canada's most visited attractions is **Magnetic Hill**, northwest of Moncton near TransCanada-2. As you near, signs tell you to drive down the slope, then cross to the left side of the roadway and stop your car by the white post. Put it in neutral, release the brake, and astonish your kids in the backseat by rolling back up the gentle slope to the top. It's an optical illusion, but for kids old enough to understand that it's not normal for things to roll uphill, it's worth the $2.

The free **Moncton Museum**, 20 Mountain Rd., ☎ 506/853-3003, hides in a new building behind the façade of the old City Hall. Permanent exhibits on Moncton history are upstairs; changing exhibits (often from Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts) are downstairs. Next door, and reached from the museum, is Moncton's oldest building, **Free Meeting House**, built in 1821. Over the years it has been used by a dozen different congregations in the city, including Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Both buildings are open daily in the summer, 10 am to 5 pm; in the winter, hours are Tuesday-Friday and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Also free is the **Thomas Williams Heritage House**, 103 Park St., Highfield, ☎ 506/857-0590. The 12-room Second Empire-style home has been restored to the elegance of its 1883 construction. Black marble fireplaces and fine wood paneling and carving are among its highlights. In the summer the Verandah Tea Room serves muffins, ice cream, tea, coffee and lemonade. Open May through mid-October, 10 am-3 pm, daily in midsummer; Monday, Wednesday and Friday in spring and fall.

Keillor House in Dorchester is a restored home depicting local life in the 19th century. Here also is the unusual **Maritime Penitentiary Museum**, whose exhibits range from the grim to the amusing – including examples of ways prisoners have tried to escape from the prison. Admission to both is $1 and they are open daily, 9 am to 5 pm, June through mid-September. ☎ 506/379-6633.

An unusual attraction in Sackville is the antennae farm of **Radio Canada International**. Here are the country's most powerful shortwave radio transmitters, broadcasting to Europe and South America. Free tours are offered between 10 am and 6 pm daily. You'll see the transmitters beside TransCanada-2, just east of town. ☎ 506/536-2690.

In Port Elgin, visit **Rosswog Farm Distillery** on Rte. 970 at Baie Verte. It was the first fruit farm distillery in Canada. ☎ 506/538-7405.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

In the center of Bouctouche, just at the north end of the bridge, facing boul. Irving, is a row of small buildings and a boardwalk along the waterfront. These form the **Prom'nade du Bazar Acadien**, a group of boutiques offering art works, crafts and foods, especially seafood. During the summer, musical and dance programs add a lively cadence to shopping or strolling there.

One of the largest craft cooperatives in the province has a shop in Grande-Digue. **Artisanat de Grande-Digue**, on Rte. 530, between its intersection with Rte. 134 and the road to Cap des Caissie (☎ 506/532-6734) shows the work of about 30 local craftsmen, and is open from mid-May through early September, Monday through Wednesday and Saturday 10-5, Thursday, Friday and Sunday 10-8.

The **tourist information office** in Dorchester has a small selection of crafts, on the Village Square; ☎ 506/379-2585.

■ Festivals & Events

Acadian festivals celebrate this French heritage, especially on **Acadian Day**, August 15, in Saint-Louis and Richibucto, and at the Kent Museum in Bouctouche. During the week leading up to Acadian Day there is a pilgrimage to the Acadian shrine in Rogersville. Other festivals recognize the main industries of the region, lumber and fishing, with a **Lumberjack Festival** in Bass River in early July (☎ 506/785-2227), and a **Fishermen's Festival** in Collette in mid-July (☎ 506/775-2324). Also in mid-July, the bounty of the sea is celebrated at the **Richibucto Scallop Festival**, during which you will see *pentocles* on every menu in town. Richibucto's Main Street is the site of a bazaar and the wharf and arena are venues for fiddlers, step dancing, variety shows, picnics and boat parades; ☎ 506/523-9724. But the granddaddy of all seafood festivals is the **Lobster Festival** in Shediac (the town with the big lobster monument) early in July, ☎ 506/532-1122.

Where To Stay & Eat

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
Reflects the price of an average room for two, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Kouchibouguac/Bouctouche

Bouctouche's first rectory, built in 1880, has been transformed into **l'Auberge le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche 1880**. The original building has five suites with period furnishings; the two

additions have modern rooms. Grounds and gardens border the sea and have a view of the lighthouse. Be sure to tour the inn if you stay there, to see its various nooks and crannies; it's an architectural delight, with little museum collections hidden away in the corners and decorated with an excellent art collection. Even if you can't get a room there, don't miss the restaurant, a standout by any measure. Begin with the appetizer of smoked mackerel, scallops and salmon, delicately perfumed with smoke, not fumigated in it. It is served with pink pepper berries in grenadine and dusted with a confetti of dulse. Crab cakes are another starter choice, elegantly served and as good as the best the Chesapeake Bay can offer. Silky scallops are lightly poached in white wine and served in a Dijon mustard sauce over a bed of leeks; although we expected the mustard flavor to predominate, it was only a haunting undertone. The richly flavored stew of buffalo was ringed with gnocchi Parisienne. Vegetables get special attention – crisp-tender baby green beans from a neighboring farm, carrots sautéed in garlic butter, tiny asparagus spears arranged artistically. We ended dinner with a plate of local artisan cheeses, accompanied by perfect strawberries and a scattering of toasted hazelnuts.

Locals go to the restaurant for the lovingly cooked local mussels and for the sea bass, although we haven't tried either there. The chef/owner has a passion for food, and buys from local farms and butchers to get the freshest and the best. 157 Chemin du Couvent, Bouctouche, NB E0A 1G0, ☎ 506/743-5568, fax 506/743-5566. ($$)

La Bergerie aux 4 Vents, Monique Roussel's sparkling sheep farm, has three guest bedrooms, two with queen-sized beds and private baths, one with a whirlpool tub. One family suite has two bedrooms with a bath. This B&B serves breakfast in the capacious kitchen, a bright room decorated with well-used cooking utensils. A package of two nights lodging, four-course dinner and a picnic lunch, is $295 per couple, including wine. When the weather is warm, the dining room is a vine-enclosed porch – *très* romantic – and the main course might be lamb or lobster. Guests will be treated to a tour of the farm and cheesemaking process, and are sure to sample the excellent cheeses and watch their energetic host, who learned the art of cheesemaking in France, as she milks some of the 63 ewes in her flock of 135 sheep. The farm is at 100-R Alban Leger Rd., Ste-Marie-de-Kent; ☎ 506/525-9633. ($$)

ACCOMMODATIONS ASSISTANCE: For a long list of cottage rentals in Shediac, and another brochure detailing lodging and restaurants, contact the **Town of Shediac**, PO Box 969, Shediac, NB E0A 3G0, ☎ 506/532-6156.

The **Kouchibouguac Motel and Restaurant** is just south of the entrance to Kouchibouguac National Park. Newly built cabins have furnished kitchens and large tables for families who want to cook "at home."

Skylights brighten these, and the big bathtubs are a welcome attraction after a day's cross-country skiing. Summer front porches with tables become ski rooms in the winter. An especially thoughtful extra in their two-night après-ski packages (about $200, including dinner and wine) is that you can check out in the evening of your last day, so you'll have time to take a shower after a day's skiing. Guests can ski right from their door to the trails of the national park. Along with the cabins are condo units and motel rooms ($$). Its owners are from Germany, and have transformed the restaurant into a haven for those who love hearty knüdlen and delicate Wiener schnitzels. Specialties are rösti (a Swiss potato dish), goulash with spaetzle, paella and a captain's platter of salmon, sole, mussels and shrimp ($-$$). Lunch dishes ($) include a generous lobster roll, chef's salad with lobster, shrimp, mussels and smoked salmon, and buffalo burgers. The mushroom omelets with potatoes are served at breakfast and at lunch. Wines are Canadian and European, priced from $17 to $24. Ask about their winter packages that include skiing in the park; you can ski right from your door. Rte. 134, Saint-Louis-de-Kent, NB E0A 2Z0, ☎ 506/876-2407, fax 506/876-4318. ($$)

Habitant Motel and Restaurant is also near Kouchibouguac National Park, and connected to it by cross-country ski trails leading right from the door. Inside you'll find a heated swimming pool and sauna, in case the weather isn't right for swimming at the nearby beaches. It's a motel, but has the warm hospitality of an inn. You won't go wrong in the restaurant either. PO Box 44, Richibucto, NB E0A 2M0, ☎ 506/523-4421 or 800/561-7666, fax 506/523-9155. ($$)

Log cabins at **Richibucto River Resort** are set in woodland overlooking the river. These cabins are especially attractive to riders since the resort has stables of Icelandic horses and riding trails. Launch your canoe from your own front yard. Cabins range in size from one to four bedrooms, and the resort also has B&B rooms. Pets are welcome, at an added cost of $5 per day. The restaurant, furnished with birch ladderback chairs, serves salmon (grilled, poached or blackened), sole with almonds, grilled chicken with couscous and roasted mushrooms and several pasta dishes ($$). Rte. 116, Upper Rexton, NB E0A 2L0, ☎ 506/523-4480, fax 506/523-4484, www.hestur.com. ($$)

Les Chalets du Havre offers newly built self-catering cottages on a secluded peninsula, but within a 10-minute walk from town. An attractive bonus is the summer shuttle boat directly to the shore at Kouchibouguac National Park. Canoes, kayaks, rowboats and bicycles are available for guests. PO Box 555, Richibucto, NB E0A 2M0, ☎ 506/523-1570 or 800/277-9037, fax 506/523-9770; www.new-brunswick.com/chalet.htm. ($$-$$$)

McPhail's Lobster Haven is a waterfront seafood restaurant and fish market. They also run boat tours. Rte. 11 at Exit 27, in Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-8432. ($$-$$$)

SEAFOOD LOVERS: One of the reasons people come to Shediac is to enjoy the abundance of fresh seafood, especially shellfish. Continental French and Acadian dishes are featured in local restaurants, and during the July Lobster Festival lobster dinners are less expensive than at other times. There's a lot of deep-fried seafood, but also mussels, scallops, shrimp and lobster prepared in classic and provincial French styles.

Domaine-sur-Mer offers the chance to learn how to cook your own lobster and to get every last morsel of meat out of it, while dining with a panoramic view of the ocean. The entire experience is a flat rate of $55, which includes a full meal, beverage, and dessert – but you do need to bring your own wine. It's also available through the Day Adventures program. Reservations are required, with a $25 deposit. Eveline Haché also has four nicely furnished, spotless B&B rooms, each with a private bath. Expect her homemade breads at breakfast. 3821 Rte. 535, Saint-Thomas, ☎ 506/743-6582, fax 506/743-8397. ($-$$)

Café Sagouine serves good renditions of the traditional Acadian foods; the *poutine rapée* and fricot are especially good, as is the clam pie, filled with tender clams, celery and onion in a sage-flavored cream sauce. The crêpes are hearty potato pancakes, crisp at the edges and delicately browned. Fried clams, lobster roll and bountiful breakfasts are also available. If you're unsure about an unfamiliar dish, ask the waitress (they're not called servers here, by the way) and she'll give you a crash course in Acadian cooking. The café also has three comfortable B&B rooms. 45 Irving Blvd., Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-5554 ($)

Café Caramel is just up the street, with a small patio of umbrella tables overlooking the street, surrounded by a small garden. Generous warm panini sandwiches of ham, chicken, cheese and roast beef – in any combination – are served with Down East coffees, Italian sodas, local cider or juices. You can begin your day with "espresso eggs," cooked in the pressurized steam from the espresso machine. Open 7:30 am to 9:30 pm, Monday through Saturday, 10-9:30 on Sunday. 63 Irving Blvd., Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-5340. ($)

Down East Coffee Company has a cheery café that serves soups, quiche, salads and sandwiches, along with delectable pastries and a breathtaking selection of fine coffees. It's open 8:30 am to 8 pm in the summer and "informally" in the winter, which means stop by and, if the door's open, they'll brew your choice. Someone is usually there from 9 until 5. Rte. 115 in Notre Dame, near Saint-Antoine, ☎ 506/576-9292 or 888/224-2233.

Boulangerie B&M is a bakery without tables, but a good place to buy fresh breads, rolls for sandwiches, cookies, muffins and substantial meat

pies and baked beans, a welcome time-saver for those who are camping or in self-catering cottages. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 9-6; Thursday and Friday, 9-8. 202 Irving Blvd., a few buildings past the bridge, in Bouctouche, ☎ 506/743-5130.

■ Moncton & Shediac

Hotel Delta Beauséjour is a well-appointed downtown hotel. Although its rates are city level, look for bargains on weekends and in the summer. It's right where the action is, near restaurants, nightclubs, and the Capitol Theatre. The rooftop pool has a lifeguard and sundeck, and the hotel offers 24-hour room service, in-room movies, and non-smoking wings. It has two well-regarded restaurants. 750 Main St., Moncton, NB E1C 1E6, ☎ 506/854-4344, 800/828-7447 in the US, 800/268-9411 in Canada. ($$$)

Canadiana Inn is an 1880s mansion in a quiet neighborhood close to Main Street. Nice architectural details have been retained and the feeling is still that of a home, rather than a hotel. Public areas include Victorian parlors, verandas, and a dining room. Guest rooms are comfortable and homey and the hosts are warm and friendly. Breakfast is not included, but available at a reasonable cost. 46 Archibald St., Moncton, NB E1C 5H9, ☎ 506/382-1054. ($$)

Victoria Bed & Breakfast is an elegant home transformed into lodgings. Antiques, lacy linens, duvets and soft robes pamper guests here; breakfasts are memorable. 71 Park St., Moncton, NB E1C 2B2, ☎/fax 506/389-8296. ($$)

The **Université de Moncton** operates a hostel from May to August with lodging for about $25 a night. North of the center of town via Archibald St., ☎ 506/858-4008.

Chez Françoise is a comfortable inn in a late 19th-century house. Guest rooms are simply furnished, but the architectural detail of the public rooms is elegant, with leaded glass, fireplaces, and wood paneling. The croissants are the highlight of the complimentary continental breakfast. The inn is open May through December. Their dining room ($$-$$$) is open to the public, serving veal, salmon, and other dishes in a continental French style. Dinner is served from 5 to 10 pm, Sunday brunch from 11 am to 3 pm. 93 rue Main, PO Box 715, Shediac, NB E0A 3G0, ☎ 506/532-4233. ($-$$)

Mallard Inn is a small B&B in a quiet neighborhood just off the main street of Shediac. Plenty of reading lights make even the smallest room there bright and cheerful. The breakfast is outstanding, with a good choice from a menu (unusual for a B&B) that includes Belgian waffles, bacon and eggs, pancakes, bagels with cream cheese, French toast and a variety of muffins – bran, carrot and banana, the morning we stayed there. Look carefully for the small sign on Main St., just east of the business dis-

trict, directing you to the inn. 19 St. Joseph St., Shediac, NB E0A 3G0; ☎ 506/532-0228, fax 506/533-9062, http://user.fundy.net/mallardi. ($$)

The seven-room **Belcourt Inn** is right in the center of town. Handmade quilts cover brass beds in several of the rooms. The inn is open year-round, and has a loyal following of guests who return to its warm hospitality each year, so reserve well ahead. 112 rue Main, Shediac, NB E0A 3G0, ☎ 506/532-6098, www.sh2000.nb.ca/comp/auberge-belcourt. ($$)

Paturel Shore House serves forthright dishes of the freshest, finest quality seafood you'll find anywhere. The hearty lobster stew appetizer hardly leaves room for the entrée to come, and the seafood platter is huge. Open daily, 4 to 10 pm, from May through September. Cape Bimet Rd., Rte. 133, Shediac, ☎ 506/532-4774. ($-$$$)

Fred's Restaurant is the place we go when we can't live another day without the world's best fried clams. Although we never order anything but clams here, we see happy people at neighboring tables wolfing down enormous lobster rolls and sandwiches on thick-cut bread. Fred's is open Sunday to Wednesday, 7:30 am to 9 pm; Thursday and Friday, 7:30 am to 10 pm; and Saturday, 7:30 am to 1 pm. Rte. 15, Cap-Pelé, ☎ 506/577-4269. ($-$$)

Aboiteau Fisheries serves lobster-in-the-rough from a take-out a window in the back of the fisheries plant. Carry your clams, scallops, fish or chowder to tables in the enclosed picnic area. A tip on buying lobster: instead of getting a lobster dinner, go around the building to the fish market and choose live lobsters. Bring them back here and they'll cook them for you and provide plates, utensils and butter. It's not cheating – they suggested we do this to get the best market price. Only in New Brunswick.... The Pier, Cap-Pelé, no phone. ($-$$)

Café Cognito is a tiny place that serves Down East coffees and "espresso eggs" steamed in the milk steam pitcher for a few seconds and served on a flaky croissant. Ordinary breakfasts pale in comparison. It's open daily, through the evening. 700 Main St. in Moncton, ☎ 506/854-4888. ($)

Bistro Café Andre is good for breakfast pastries, cake, soups, sandwiches and excellent coffee. It's open all year, and in the summer you can dig into a bowl of excellent mussels on their deck. It's in downtown Shediac, ☎ 506/533-9215. ($)

The **Seagull Motel's Le Mirage Restaurant** has a nice menu of seafood, with several choices that are not deep-fried (not always easy to find along this shore). Just south of the bridge in Shediac Bridge; ☎ 506/532-2530. ($$)

■ Sackville to Cape Tormentine

The elegant **Marshlands Inn** retains the molded ceilings, beveled glass windows, fine woodwork and an original William Morris frieze in the din-

ing room that distinguish this Victorian building. Antique furnishings and original works by many local artists complete the décor. It's clear why Queen Elizabeth chose to stop for a respite here on her 1984 tour. The dining room ($$) has more than fine historic décor to offer, with a classic continental menu that adds some pleasant local surprises – fiddleheads as a side dish, blueberry sauce with breast of duck, smoked salmon layered with puff pastry. 59 Bridge St., PO Box 1440, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0, ☎ 506/536-0170, fax 506/536-0721. ($$)

Savoy Arms Bed and Breakfast will appeal especially to fans of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas. Room names and décor echo themes from their work, but in a playful way. Guests enjoy the genial hosts and the large, well-stocked library overlooking the backyard and terrace, where they may have breakfast in good weather. 55 Bridge St., PO Box 785, Sackville, NB E0A 3C0, ☎ 506/536-0790. ($-$$)

Little Shemogue Country Inn, a four-star inn with a well-known dining room, is furnished with Canadian and European antiques. It has only five guest rooms, so the atmosphere feels more like that of a fine country home. RR #2, Hwy 955, Port Elgin, NB E0A 2K0, ☎ 506/538-2320, fax 506/538-7494. ($$)

For a homey bed and breakfast at budget prices, reserve a room at **A.& A. Jacobs Bed & Breakfast**. It's a 70-year-old farmhouse only five minutes from the beautiful beaches of the Northumberland Strait. Upper Cape Rd., RR 2 Port Elgin, Melrose, NB E0A 2K0, ☎ 506/538-9980. ($)

The **Windjammer** looks like the captain's dining room aboard an elegant small ship. The changing menu may feature wild game, and will certainly offer well-prepared seafood. They are busy every night of the week, so do make reservations ahead. Hotel Delta Beauséjour, 750 Main Street, Moncton, ☎ 506/854-4344. ($$-$$$)

L'Auberge shares a chef with the Windjammer, but serves a slightly less ambitious and less expensive menu in a relaxed setting where families would feel as comfortable as couples dining tête-à-tête. Open daily from 7 am to 10:30 pm. Hotel Delta Beauséjour, 750 Main Sreet, Moncton, ☎ 506/854-4344. ($$)

Le Château a Pape invites diners to visit the extensive wine cellars to select a bottle for dinner. Wine seems to be the decorative theme, too, with chandeliers fashioned from bottles highlighting its funky décor. The menu is varied, with a selection of brochettes that include bacon-wrapped scallops, mixed seafood, beef tenderloin and a vegetarian skewer. Seafood gets some unusual treatments – shrimps sauced with Pernod – along with the more usual coquilles St.-Jacques. Uncommon on an upscale menu are a few renditions of local Acadian soul-food: a boiled dinner, chicken fricot, and *poutine à trou*, a fruit-filled pastry. Open for dinner daily from 4 pm, it's in a rambling mansion close to the center of Moncton. 2 Steadman St., South; ☎ 506/855-7273. ($$-$$$)

The Vienna Coffee House is a casual restaurant serving hearty breakfasts – mega-omelets and eggs Benedict, lunches of creamy chowder or sandwiches on whole grain or white bread (baked here) and dinners. The evening menu is limited to a half-dozen choices, but good ones: chicken Kiev, Italian hot sausages with potato and sauerkraut, poached salmon and spareribs. This is a good choice for afternoon tea or a coffee break, accompanied by one of their luscious cakes or pastries: Fundy mud, chocolate velvet cheesecake or homey apple dumplings. 28 York St., Sackville, ☎ 506/563-0409. ($-$$)

Café Ambiance serves espresso piping hot and delicious and the soups, sandwiches and pies are equally reliable. Not an upscale café, but really, really good. It's in the village of Memramcook, ☎ 506/758-3393. ($)

Wilbur's Cove Tea Room is a congenial stop for a cup of tea or a banana split or for a full home-style meal. The breads and rolls are made right there, and their daily seafood plate always includes lobster, scallops and haddock. Open daily 11-7. Rte. 935 in Rockport, at the corner of Delesdernier Rd.; ☎ 506/379-9190. ($-$$)

■ Camping

You'll have to travel far to find better-maintained campgrounds than those at **Kouchibouguac National Park**. Sites are large, mowed and well-spaced, the facilities spotless. This quality has not gone unnoticed, and the park is filled to the brim. You can reserve sites by calling ☎ 800/213-PARK, but half the spaces are held for those without reservations, so get there early in the day for the best chances and take a number for the next morning if you don't get a site. Fees are $16.25 for unserviced sites; $22 with electricity. In addition to traditional campgrounds, two are not accessible by car. The Petit-Large area has primitive sites, with access by bicycle or on foot only. Sipu, on the riverbank, can also be reached by canoe. Kouchibouguac, NB E0A 20A, ☎ 506/876-2443.

Habitant Campground is close to the national park, and has a swimming pool and canteen. PO Box 44, Richibucto, NB E0A 2M0, ☎ 506/523-4421, fax 506/523-9155.

Jardine Municipal Park is a former provincial park now operated by the town of Richibucto. It tends to be crowded, mostly with RVs, and the sites are close together, but shaded under tall pines. There is also an unsupervised beach at the park. Serviced sites are $17.50, unserviced ones are $13.50. Richibucto, NB E0A 2M0, ☎ 506/523-4421.

Escuminac Beach and Family Park is a former provincial park at Point Escuminac, on the southern shore of Miramichi Bay. It is now privately operated, with unserviced and partially serviced sites at $10 and $16 a day, respectively. Well-maintained sites stretch along the edge of a birch grove. PO Box 133, Baie Ste-Anne, NB E0C 1A0, ☎ 506/228-4532.

Camping is available in a beachside setting at **Parlee Beach Provincial Park.** Rates are about $20 a day. PO Box 1537, Shediac, NB E0A 3G0, ☎ 506/532-1500.

Near the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island, **Murray Beach Park** has campsites adjoining the white sand beach. Cape Tormentine, NB E0A 10A, ☎ 506/538-2628.

Chez Les Maury has a pleasant campground at their winery, with its own private beach. Nightly rates are $14 for unserviced and $20 for serviced sites. Look for the winery sign on Rte. 475 in Saint-Edouard-de-Kent; ☎ 506/743-5347, www.ferme-maury.com.

Prince Edward Island

Introduction

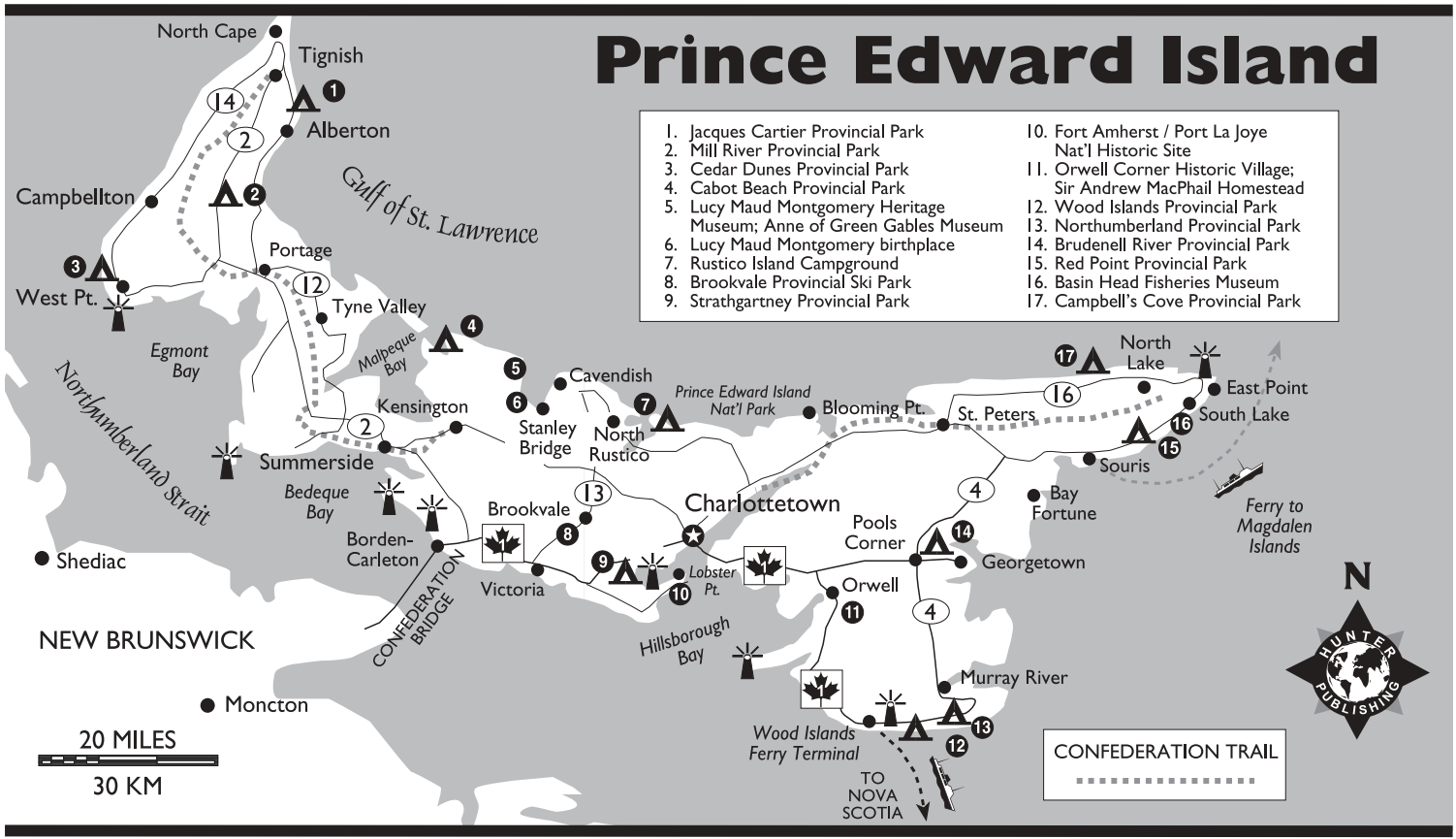
IN THIS CHAPTER

- **Central PEI – Borden-Carleton, Cavendish, Victoria, Charlottetown, PEI National Park**
- **Western PEI – Summerside, West Point, North Cape, Tignish, Alberton, Campbellton**
- **Eastern PEI – East Point, Pooles Corner, Wood Islands, Panmure Island, Mount Stewart, Cardigan, Murray River, Mount Stewart**

The long red beaches and warm gentle waters of Prince Edward Island represent, to us, the accumulated memories of idyllic summers. Those happy Julys and Augusts meld in retrospect into one long beach, punctuated by pots of fresh-dug clams steaming over a campfire, with a backdrop of miles of green, gold and terra-cotta fields covering a rolling landscape, like a lumpy featherbed. Please don't expect us to be objective here.

This chapter is divided into four parts: the short introduction is followed by sections on the central, eastern and western parts of the island. We have provided a general introductory section because, although PEI is small, it has a cohesive history; many activities, outfitters and adventures involve the whole island. Many people, for example, cycle the entire length of the island on the Confederation Trail in a single trip, or rent a kayak in Charlottetown to paddle in bays from St. Peters to Malpeque. But don't let the island's size mislead you: it packs a lot of activity in a tidy little sea-wrapped package.

The eastern and western parts of the island are very similar, yet they differ in many ways. The east seems more populated and heavily farmed, with ports and fishing along the its eastern and southern coasts. The west is a bit wilder, more forested and less populated, with the vast protected Malpeque Bay along its northern shore. Between them is the central section, which, like the rest of the island, is heavily agricultural, but in the Charlottetown area and along the northern coast there is more development than you'll find in the other two sections. The north also has some of the island's most beautiful beaches, as well as the highest concentration of tourist-related businesses and attractions. There are enough activities in each of these three sections to occupy an entire vacation, or you may choose to move from one to the other, spending a few days in each.


Prince Edward Island
1. Jacques Cartier Provincial Park
2. Mill River Provincial Park
3. Cedar Dunes Provincial Park
4. Cabot Beach Provincial Park
5. Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum; Anne of Green Gables Museum
6. Lucy Maud Montgomery birthplace
7. Rustico Island Campground
8. Brookvale Provincial Ski Park
9. Strathgartney Provincial Park
10. Fort Amherst / Port La Joye Nat'l Historic Site
11. Orwell Corner Historic Village; Sir Andrew MacPhail Homestead
12. Wood Islands Provincial Park
13. Northumberland Provincial Park
14. Brudenell River Provincial Park
15. Red Point Provincial Park
16. Basin Head Fisheries Museum
17. Campbell's Cove Provincial Park
North Cape
Tignish
Alberton
Campbellton
Portage
West Pt.
Tyne Valley
Egmont Bay
Malpeque Bay
Northumberland Strait
Gulf of St. Lawrence
Kensington
Summerside
Bedeque Bay
Cavendish
Stanley Bridge
North Rustico
Prince Edward Island Nat'l Park
Blooming Pt.
St. Peters
North Lake
East Point
South Lake
Souris
Bay Fortune
Ferry to Magdalen Islands
Charlottetown
Brookvale
Borden-Carleton
Victoria
Lobster Pt.
Pools Corner
Georgetown
Orwell
Hillsborough Bay
Murray River
Wood Islands Ferry Terminal
TO NOVA SCOTIA
Shediac
NEW BRUNSWICK
CONFEDERATION BRIDGE
Moncton
20 MILES
30 KM
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
CONFEDERATION TRAIL

Geography

Geographically, the island is a great red sandstone mass cast adrift in the **Northumberland Strait**. It is separated from New Brunswick by nine miles of sea between Cape Tormentine and Borden-Carleton and from Nova Scotia by 14 miles of sea between Caribou and Wood Islands. Much of the shoreline is **red sand beach** backed by eroded **red sandstone cliffs**, 15 to 30 feet high in places. This soft stone has eroded beautifully, forming natural arches – and, off the North Cape, even a giant elephant.

The rolling hillsides are covered with rich fields of **farmland**. In spring, summer and fall the landscape is a kaleidoscope of color – brick-red soil contrasts with golden fields of wheat and green masses of potato plants. Behind them are dense forests of evergreens, which, along the coastal regions, are stunted by the strong prevailing winds. Deep **river estuaries** cut into the land, almost dividing it into three segments. On the north coast, barrier beaches from Alberton, in the west, to Tracadie Bay, in the east, protect harbors that provide not only a bounty of fish and shellfish but exciting canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

History

The first European settlement on the island was late by North American standards. In 1720, the **French** settled at Port la Joye, at the entrance to what is now Charlottetown Harbour and on a point of land directly across the water from present-day Charlottetown. These early French settlers, like their brethren in Nova Scotia, are referred to as **Acadians**. Other French settlements began at about the same time, notably on the west end, where the French flavor of its original Acadian settlers is still strong. After only 38 years, Port la Joye was captured by the British, who tore down the old French Vauban-style fort and built a new one, Fort Amherst.

Charlottetown was settled soon thereafter, and in the next several decades Scottish and Irish settlers began to arrive in large numbers. To this mix were added a few settlers and refugees from the American colonies before and after the Revolution. Originally farmers, the settlers soon took on fishing and then shipbuilding, succeeding in all. They also became merchants and traders and, to this day, have a broad-based economy in which fishing, fish farming, farming and commerce play equally important parts.

We should note two more historical events that you will meet in PEI. Charlottetown was the scene of the conference where the **Articles of Confederation** were drawn up, creating Canada as we know it (but without Newfoundland). This and related sites have the same hallowed

significance to Canadians that Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell have to Americans, as do the men who met here, who are called the **Fathers of Confederation**, sometimes simply referrred to as The Fathers. Charlottetown has some very nicely done historical programs centering around this exciting time in its history.

THE FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION

Of all of the places we have been in Canada, Prince Edward Island is the most proud of its "Canadian-ness." Charlottetown reveres and commemorates the Fathers of Confederation in one spot more than all US national heroes are honored in similar circumstances. PEI leaders were in the forefront of the confederation movement that led to the conference here in 1864. That conference led to union, though PEI didn't join the confederation until later. Everywhere you will find references to the "Fathers" and you can't escape them. They landed at Peakes Wharf, paraded up Great George St., met at Province House, partied at Argowan (and other places) and stayed at the Pavilion and Wellington Hotels before heading back home to set up Canada. The Confederation Centre for the Arts was erected in 1964 by the national government to commemorate PEI's role as a nation builder.

The second event is a more recent phenomenon, based on an endearing series of children's fiction by Lucy Maud Montgomery that center around the adventures of ***Anne of Green Gables***. Anne has so captured the hearts of the world – most recently the Japanese – that the entire north-central part of the island is known by the tourist designation of "Anne's Land." Much is made of Anne, some of it quite charming, but some of the attractions are... well, how do we say it nicely? A quarter of a million people visit the sites annually. When it all becomes too suffocating, just think of the local people, who can't even run to the corner for a gallon of milk without fending off tour buses and wedding parties. Fortunately, it's only a short way through Cavendish to the island's loveliest beaches and miles of woodland walks.

Getting Around

The primary route to Prince Edward Island is **Rte. 16** in New Brunswick, which runs from Aulac to Cape Tormentine. This trip once required a 45-minute ferry ride, and often a wait. The 24-hour ferry service was part of a commitment to permanent communication that was made to the island when it joined the confederation. That commitment took another step in the summer of 1997 with the opening of

the **Confederation Bridge**, a nine-mile span over the Northumberland Strait from Cape Tormentine to Borden-Carleton.

The other vehicular access to the island is still by ferry. At Caribou, Nova Scotia, Bay Ferries operates a car ferry to **Wood Islands** on PEI; ☎ 902/566-3838 (in PEI), 506/649-7777 (in New Brunswick) or 888/249-7245 (SAIL), www.nfl-bay.com. This 14-mile ferry ride takes 75 minutes, and boats make nine trips a day during peak summer season. The rate is about $50 per car, including passengers. You can cross as a foot passenger for $11, or $9 for those over age 65; children under 12 free. From Rte. 104 west of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, take Rte. 106 to Caribou.

From Borden-Carleton or Wood Islands, take **TransCanada-1** (also called TC1) to get to the provincial capital, Charlottetown. Three designated touring routes, one for each county, lead travelers around the island. The western, more sparsely settled part of the island, is explored from the **Lady Slipper Drive**, which circles the shoreline of **Prince County**, a distance of about 180 miles. Follow the signs with the pink lady slipper; the route numbers change often but the signs don't. The faster route is **Rte. 2**, which runs pretty much up the center.

The eastern region, **King's County**, has **King's Byway Drive**, which also circles the shoreline, a distance of about 230 miles. Follow the signs with the purple crown; expect the route numbers to change frequently here, too. From Charlottetown, **Rte. 2** will take you north along the Hillsborough River and then across the peninsula to the port town of **Souris**, the starting place for the ferry trip to the Magdalen Islands. **TransCanada-1** serves the southern part of the county, as far as Wood Islands, and **Rte. 3** is the fastest route to the Brudenell area, with **Rte. 4** leading to the southern shores of St. Mary's Bay.

Queen's County, in the central third of the island, is circled by **Blue Heron Drive** along its outer edges and close to the ocean, about 120 miles. **Rte. 2** runs almost straight across the center of Queen's County from Charlottetown to Kensington but, as a look at the map will tell you, there is no fast straight road from the entry point at Borden-Carleton to the north shore area. **TransCanada-1A** from Borden will take you quickly to Summerside and Rte. 2.

Information Sources

Information on the province is available from **Tourism PEI**, PO Box 940, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7M5, ☎ 888/PEI-PLAY (888/734-7529), 902/629-2400, fax 902/629-2428, Web site www.peiplay.com, e-mail tourpei@gov.pe.ca.

On the PEI side of the Confederation Bridge, stop at the **Borden-Carleton Visitor Information Centre**, ☎ 902/437-8570, Gateway Village, which has a large selection of materials. It is open daily, 8 am to 10 pm, in early

summer; 9 am to 9 pm from mid-August to early September; and from 9 am to 5 pm the rest of the year.

Charlottetown Visitor Information Centre, 178 Water St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4B7, ☎ 902/368-4444, is open daily in July and August; Monday through Friday the rest of the year.

Other Visitor Information Centres are in **Wood Islands**, on Rte. 1 near the ferry terminal, ☎ 902/962-7411; **Pooles Corner**, at the intersection of routes 3 and 4, ☎ 902/838-0670; **Souris**, Rte. 2 in the Souris Beach Provincial Park, ☎ 902/687-7030; **Brackley Beach**, Rte. 15, ☎ 902/672-7474; **Cavendish**, at the corner of routes 6 and 13, ☎ 902/963-7830; **Mount Pleasant**, Rte. 2, ☎ 902/831-7930; and **Summerside**, Rte. 1A, ☎ 902/888-8364. Call for hours of operation; most of these centers are open daily from mid-June to mid-October.

A WORD ABOUT SPELLING

When the British and American people divorced in 1776 they also apparently decided to spell words differently and to use different words for the same things. The Canadian colonies, later provinces, followed the British spelling rules (father knows best!). In writing this book we have used the American spelling in text, but for place names we have used the local (British) spelling. For example, we will speak of an attractive ***harbor***, but we will refer to Charlottetown ***Harbour***. We will also refer to the Confederation ***Centre*** for the Arts but will tell you that it is in the ***center*** of town. This should not only make it easier for you to find what you are looking for, but it adds just a touch of the exotic as well. As for the words we use and the way we pronounce them, Maritime Canada is divided between British and American forms, so you may hear a few words that sound British to you; but, for the most part, Americans and islanders speak the same language.

Adventures

The differences between the adventures here and in other Atlantic provinces are a matter of degree. Yes, there are some cliffs, but they are friendly drop-offs where the sea has eroded the sandstone shore. The bays are low and gentle, most of them quite protected from the full fury of the sea. There are abundant routes for bicycling, but no athlete-challenging mountains to climb, just rolling hills through colorful countryside. In short, this is a more gentle landscape for relaxed enjoyment.

Many of the activities in the center of the island are located inside **Prince Edward Island National Park**, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 800/213-PARK or 902/672-6350. The National

Park includes most of the north shore of Queens County from Tracadie Bay on the east to New London Bay on the west. It protects the delicate shoreline from excessive use, while keeping it available to the public. Within its borders are sand dunes, beaches, red sandstone cliffs, salt marshes, clam flats, freshwater ponds and woodlands. The park offers opportunities for hiking and walking on the beaches and designated hiking trails, swimming in the warm waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, sailboarding, kayaking and canoeing in its protected bays and rivers, cycling on its roads and around the periphery, tennis and bird-watching. While the park season is from June through September (when park fees are collected), the facilities are open the rest of the year without services and without fee.

■ On Foot

The Confederation Trail

Canada's exciting new TransCanada Trail, known in PEI as the **Confederation Trail**, is built here upon the bed of the former Canadian National Railway and runs a total of 217 miles. In 1989 the rail line was shut down; since then, many miles of the railbed have been converted to rolled stonedust surface. Along its way the trail passes through small towns and villages, presenting many choices of lodging and dining. The problem with rail-trails, of course, is that they don't loop, so if you want to end up in the same place you started you have to double back.

If you intend to backpack across the province, this is the best place to do it. The only traffic you will encounter on the trail, except at highway crossings, is bicycles. The runs between towns are short enough to give you a great deal of flexibility in planning your stops. Many of the outfitters and trip planners listed in the *On Wheels* section below can help make arrangements for you along the trail; some can arrange luggage transfers, so you don't even have to carry a full pack. See particularly those listed in the Central area; most of them operate throughout the whole province.

CONFEDERATION TRAIL MAP: A map is published and updated annually by the association that is overseeing the building of the Confederation Trail, changing as new sections are added. You can get a copy at the major information centers, particularly those along the trail route.

The trail is also good for those touring by automobile, who just want to get out of the car periodically and wander into the countryside. Get the map and stop for a short walk or pedal on the trail whenever your highway crosses it. A look at the map will show you what is interesting along the

trail nearest you – good view points and even beaver dams are shown on the trail map.

On its eastern end, the trail starts at **Elmira**, fittingly at the old railroad station, now a museum. Segments along the trail generally run about five miles between towns; most segments have special attractions. For example, between Elmira and Baltic is an attractive pond and between Bear River and Selkirk is the Larkin's Pond Bridge Lookout.

On the west side of the island, the starting point for the trail is the zero mileage marker at **Tignish**, on the northern tip. From there, the trail drops down to **St. Louis**, just over 6½ miles, and then to **Alberton**, on Cascumpec Bay, an additional six miles.

RECOMMENDED READING

A book well worth having is ***Your Guide to Nature Trails of Prince Edward Island***, published in 1996 by Ragweed Press. It describes the Confederation Trail segment by segment, as well as 31 of the shorter trails on the island. It's a perfect size to put into a pocket. Note, however, that the book has not been updated since the completion of the trail, so the newer segments are not included.

Ragweed also publishes another handy little pocket-size book, called ***Your Guide to Seascapes of Prince Edward Island***. It divides the island into six tours along the seacoast. Each tour should take a day except for the North King's Tour, which is designed to take two days. The author takes readers to beaches, harbors, cliffs and along the way relates the natural and human history of the island. Both of these books are available in most bookstores on the island and in gift and souvenir shops.

At the **Gateway Centre** on the island end of the Confederation Bridge, pick up a map to the whole trail. There are also branch trails along the route. For example, a trail reaches from Souris to the Confederation Trail at New Harmony; there are plans for a trail from Montague, through Brudenell and Cardigan, to join up with the Confederation Trail at Mount Stewart. In Charlottetown, a trail runs from the Confederation Trail right to the center of town. We have listed several outfitters below, and in each of the sections, most of whom would be happy to arrange a pickup or drop-off for you. Many innkeepers along the way are also happy to accommodate hikers.

ISLAND-WIDE HIKING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Outside Expeditions** arranges tours all over the island and uses local guides. They offer half- , full- , and multi-day trips. Contact Bryon Howard, Box 337, Harbour Rd., North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0; ☎ 902/963-3366 or 800/207-3899, www.getoutside.com.

■ **Scott Walking Tours**, 1707 Pryor St., Halifax, NS B3H 4G7, ☎ 800/262-8644 or 902/423-5000, fax 902/423-2813, www.scottwalking.com, operates a number of inn-to-inn walking trips on the island, some multiday.

TIP: A good source of hiking material is the **Island Nature Trust**. At their headquarters at Ravenwood House they have lots of information on the island and its natural history, and brochures on many hiking trails. Ravenwood House is on the Experimental Farm at Mount Edward Rd., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/566-9150, or 892-7513, fax 892-7513.

■ On Water

Beaches

Wonderful beaches stretch all around the island, some crowded with people and others virtually unknown. We have listed beaches in each of the three individual sections, but the list does not include all of them. Sometimes by following a dirt road toward the sea you can find a hidden strip of sand; just make sure it is not posted for trespassers. And, if you use one of these, leave it at least as clean as you found it. You might want to pick up a copy of ***Your Guide to Seascapes of Prince Edward Island*** by Ragweed Press (see above), which will lead you to some good spots.

By Kayak and Canoe

A glance at a map will tell you that there is a lot to do in the province for canoeists or kayakers. Look at a map of the west end of the island, and you can't miss that huge protected body of water that runs from **Cascumpec Bay** down through the immense **Malpeque Bay**. On the north coast of the central part there at a number of bays and rivers to explore, to say nothing of the big **Charlottetown Harbour** and its tributaries, especially the **Hillsborough River**. On the east side of the island there are more bays, harbors and rivers that cut deeply into the land. We have pointed out some of these places, but hope that you take the time to find some of your own.

CANOE & KAYAK OUTFITTERS

These outfitters offer canoe and/or kayak trips in multiple locations around the island. In each chapter we also list other outfitters who conduct trips in their own areas and who rent equipment.

■ The husband-and-wife team at **Outside Expeditions** in North Rustico arranges tours island-wide. Contact Bryon Howard at Box 337, North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0, ☎ 902/963-3366 or 800/207-3899, www.getoutside.com.Their shop is at the end of Harbour Rd.

■ **Paddle PEI** offers half- , full- and two-day trips and rents equipment as well. Trips are to multiple locations on the island for all skill levels from beginner up. Open June through September, 9 am to 8 pm. 41 Allen St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 2V6. They also have a location at Brudenell River Provincial Park, ☎ 902/652-2434.

■ **PEI Heritage Trail Tours** will arrange canoeing trips at several locations throughout the island. Contact George Crawford, 17 Karen Dr., Charlottetown C1E 1V3, ☎ 902/368-2331 or 7337, e-mail heritagetrails@yahoo.com.

Diving

The folks at **Black Dolphin Diving and Watersports**, Charlottetown, are happy to suggest dive spots and will arrange charters. They are open all year. From May through October, hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 6 pm; Friday, 9 am to 8 pm; and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. From November through April they are open Monday through Friday, 11:30 am to 5:30 pm; and Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. 106 Hillsboro St., Box 3037, Charlottetown C1A 7N9, ☎ 902/894-3483.

■ On Wheels

Bicycling

If you are up to a 217-mile trip, ride the **Confederation Trail**. The trail is a real asset to the island, and its new surface is well maintained. This is an old railbed, so the grades are flat or gentle. The trail also meanders its way through the back country, generally staying away from the coast and running through areas that are essentially unsettled. As you might expect, there is a combination of fields and forests and you will encounter virtually no heavily urban settings, except for the route into Charlottetown. Since the trail crosses so many of the province's small back roads, it is easy to use a map to plot a loop route almost anywhere on the island using the Confederation Trail for part of the trip and back roads for the rest of the loop.

TIP: If you are planning a bike trip from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island, you cannot ride your bike across the nine miles of the Confederation Bridge. But the two provinces have a free shuttle service for bikers that will get you safely across. Just report to the transfer facility at either end of the bridge; the shuttle operates on demand, with a maximum two-hour wait.

BICYLE OUTFITTERS

These outfitters offer tours in multiple locations on PEI:

■ **Freewheeling Adventures**. This Nova Scotia company offers a variety of accompanied and supported bike trips on the island. They have been around for a while and have a good reputation. They transport your luggage and arrange stays at comfortable B&Bs and small inns. They also feed you well. Cathy and Phil Guest, Hubbards, RR#1 NS B0J 1T0, ☎ 902-857-3600, 800/672-0775, fax 857-3612, www.freewheeling.ca.

■ **MacQueen's Island Tours**. For those who want to do independent bike touring but need help with the details, they arrange accommodations, dining, rentals, road repairs, luggage transfer and other details. Open all year. 430 Queen St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/368-2453, fax 902/894-4547, 800/969-2822, www.macqueens.com.

■ **Outside Expeditions** arranges guided trips across the island or helps you design your own with their logistical support. Trips range from half-day jaunts to six-day expeditions, and they know the best trails. Rentals are $25 per day, $100 per week; a half-day guided tour is $39. Open July and August, 8 am to dusk; June, September and October by reservation only. c/o Bryon Howard, PO Box 337, North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0, ☎ 902/963-3366, fax 963-3322, 800/207-3899, www.getoutside.com.

RECOMMENDED READING: ***Prince Edward Island Cycling Guide*** is a handy book, small enough to fit easily into a pocket. The 15 routes it covers range from 13 to 246 miles in length. A map shows all roadways, so you can select parts of any route and find a way to return. Symbols show the number of steep or shallow grades to climb, the type of road or surfaces, location of beaches and sights, distances (in km) and other information. It is available in most bookstores and bike shops or from Veloasis, CP 772, Sherbrooke, Québec J1H 5K7, ☎ 819/562-7522.

Island Tours

Although a car is handy for getting to out-of-the-way places, you can see a lot of the island without one. Some tour companies make it easier.

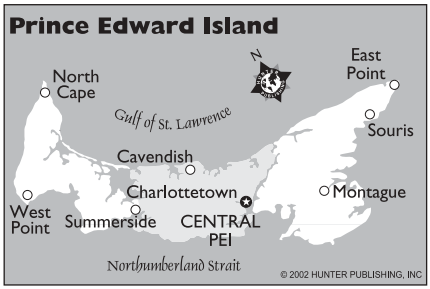
With **Beach Shuttle**, a "Tip to Tip" two-day tour for small groups travels by van and hits highlights. Charlottetown, by reservation only; ☎ 902/566-3243.

Mid-Isle Shuttle offers two- and four-hour tours, as well as full-day excursions. Each two-hour tour covers a specific area, such as the North Shore, the Green Gables House, the MacPhail Homestead, or West River area (including Fort Amherst); they also have a Charlottetown craft studio tour. Call for reservations or to arrange a custom itinerary. Tours run May through mid-September; ☎ 902/675-2528 or 888/908-2800.

Island Outdoor Adventures runs tours around the whole island in an air-conditioned van. Some guided tours allow use of your own vehicle. The guide rides with you or provides a guide in a lead car. Tours cover Kings County on Monday and Wednesday and Prince County on Tuesday and Thursday. Borden-Carleton, ☎ 902/855-3198 or 855-2007, 877/868-7734, fax 902/855-2350, e-mail dawna.gillis@pei.sympatico.ca.

Central Prince Edward Island

The central part of the island is its best known. This is the land of Anne of Green Gables. The north shore, along the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, is where author Lucy Maud Montgomery grew up and lived, so it was here that her fictional Anne had her adventures. The northern shoreline is covered with beautiful red sand beaches, protected harbors and sand dunes.



Tracadie Bay, **Rustico Bay** and **New London Bay** cut into the coast deeply, but the mouth of each is protected by a barrier dune system. This coast is a mecca for most of the visitors to the island and, because of that, it also has the greatest collection of "tourist attractions," such as amusement parks, theme parks and gift shops. But don't write it off as too touristy to offer enticements for the adventurous. The central north coast also has the greater part of the outstanding **Prince Edward Island National Park**. The park encompasses most of the north shore, from the edge of Tracadie Bay in the east all the way west to the end of the barrier dune at New London Bay. It is not only a major source of services for those of us who love the outdoors – such as camping, bathing and hiking – but it also protects and preserves the fragile ecology of this sensitive coast.

On its eastern edge, the central section is substantially bounded by the **Hillsborough River**, a broad tidal waterway that comes within a few miles of connecting to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The mouth of the Hillsborough River comes together with the **North River** and the **West River** to form **Charlottetown Harbour**, which flows past Rocky Point and Historic Fort Amherst into the **Northumberland Strait**. All three rivers offer nice kayaking, but you will probably want to avoid the harbor, where powerboats are common.

Charlottetown, on the north side of the confluence, is the provincial capital and the only major city on the island. It is possible to visit the other ends of the province from a lodging base here, but we don't advise it. Granted, the city is only about 105 miles from the North Cape in the west and 67 miles from East Point, but the travel from here to those areas is slow and you would miss much of what you came here to enjoy.

The southern and western parts of this central section are more agricultural than the north shore or the Charlottetown area. There are some nice harbors, but the shore along the **Northumberland Strait** has little pro-

tection from rapid changes of weather and currents. Attractive small towns, such as **Victoria**, dot beautiful rural landscapes. In the northwest corner, the magnificent **Malpeque Bay** almost separates the central area from western PEI, where it is connected by a strip of land only three miles wide, near Summerside.

Getting Around

Most people arrive on the island via the new **Confederation Bridge**, a nine-mile, 12-minute trip, which only a few years ago took an hour via a regularly scheduled ferry (without counting the wait or loading time). The bridge has dramatically affected the island and the number of visitors and part-time residents who come here. From landfall at **Borden Point**, take **TC1** if you are heading to **Charlottetown** or to the eastern part of the island. It is a well-marked highway. If you are going to the western part of the island, follow TC1 to **Rte. 1A** and **Rte. 11**, to reach **Summerside**, or **Rte. 2** if you are headed more deeply into the western section.

Although the north shore is the most popular part of the island, no straightforward route leads there from Borden-Carleton. If you are headed to the **Stanhope** area, go to Charlottetown, take **Rte. 2** north and then **Rte. 6** north. If the **Rustico/Cavendish** area is your goal, take TC1 and then **Rte. 1A** north to Middleton, then go east on **Rte. 225** through Kinkora to Hartsville. Just beyond Hartsville take **Rte. 13** north.

Most of the coast here is part of the **Blue Heron Drive**. In the south, this follows the coast from Borden-Carleton via routes **10** and **116** through **Victoria**, and **Rte. 19** along the coast and the Fort Amherst peninsula to TC1 again and into the city. From Charlottetown, take **Rte. 2**, part of the **King's Byway Circuit**, turning onto **Rte. 6** just past Dunstaffnage toward Mill Cove, Grand Tracadie and Stanhope on the north coast. When Rte. 6 joins Rte. 15 near Brackley Point, go right and continue to follow Rte. 6 as it angles back and forth following westward along the north coast.

Although Rte. 6 is part of the Blue Heron Drive, this northern section could just as well be called **Anne's Trail** because it runs through the heart of that phenomenon. At **New London**, the Blue Heron Drive heads north along Rte. 20 and Rte. 6 continues on to Kensington, where it ends. Rte. 20 will take you on to Kensington as well, although the Blue Heron flies off to the west on a side trip along Rte. 104.

From Charlottetown to Cavendish, a handy 15-passenger van, **The Shuttle**, operates on a first-come-first-served basis and has regular stopping places in the city and at Cavendish. They will, however, accommodate alternate pickups or drop-offs if their schedule allows. Their rate is $16 same-day round trip or $10 one way. It operates June through September.

Pickups in Charlottetown are at the Dundee Arms Hotel (200 Pownal St.), Visitors Information Centre (178 Water St.) and from June through the September from the Youth Hostel (153 Mount Edward Rd.). The schedule changes, so call for departure times and places before planning your day; ☎ 902/566-3243.

Information Sources

Information on the province is available from **Tourism PEI**, PO Box 940, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7M5, ☎ 888/PEI-PLAY (888/734-7529), www.peiplay.com, e-mail tourpei@gov.pe.ca.

On the island end of the Confederation Bridge, stop at the **Borden-Carleton Visitor Information Centre** at Gateway Village, ☎ 902/437-8570, which has a large selection of materials. It is open daily, 8 am to 10 pm, in early summer; 9 am to 9 pm from mid-August to early September; and from 9 am to 5 pm the rest of the year.

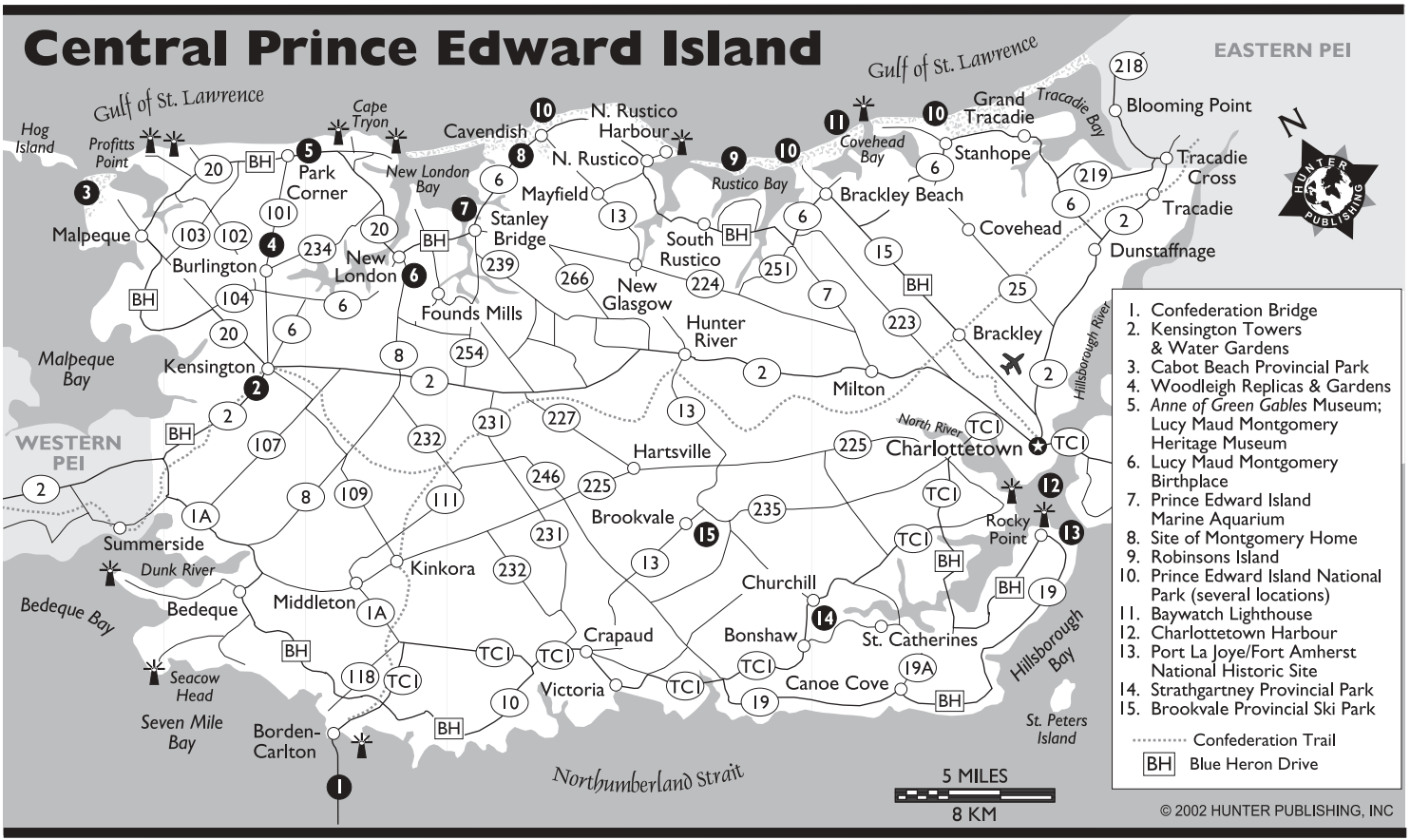
PEI Tourist Information Centre, 178 Water St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7M5, ☎ 902/368-4444, is open daily in July and August; Monday through Friday the rest of the year.

Other Visitor Information Centres in the central island area are in **Brackley Beach**, Rte. 15, ☎ 902/672-7474; and **Cavendish**, at the corner of Rte. 6 and Rte. 13, ☎ 902/963-7830. Most centers are open daily from mid-June to mid-October.

Adventures

Many of the activities in the center of the island are located inside **Prince Edward Island National Park**, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350. The National Park includes most of the north shore of Queens County from Tracadie Bay on the east to New London Bay on the west. It protects the delicate shoreline from excessive use while keeping it available to the public. In it are sand dunes, beaches, red sandstone cliffs, salt marshes, clam flats, freshwater ponds and woodlands.

The park offers hiking on woodland trails, walking on the beaches, swimming in the warm waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, sailboarding, kayaking and canoeing in its protected bays and rivers, cycling on its roads, camping in well-kept campgrounds, tennis and bird-watching. While the park season is from June through September (when park fees are collected), the facilities are open the rest of the year without services and without fee.


Central Prince Edward Island
Gulf of St. Lawrence
Gulf of St. Lawrence
EASTERN PEI
WESTERN PEI
Hog Island
Profitts Point
Cape Tryon
New London Bay
Cavendish
N. Rustico Harbour
N. Rustico
Mayfield
Rustico Bay
Covehead Bay
Grand Tracadie
Tracadie Bay
Blooming Point
Stanhope
Tracadie Cross
Tracadie
Dunstaffnage
Brackley Beach
Covehead
Brackley
Park Corner
Malpeque
Burlington
New London
Stanley Bridge
South Rustico
New Glasgow
Founds Mills
Hunter River
Milton
Malpeque Bay
Kensington
Hillsborough River
North River
Charlottetown
Hartsville
Rocky Point
Summerside
Dunk River
Kinkora
Brookvale
Churchill
Bedeque Bay
Bedeque
Middleton
Crapaud
Bonshaw
St. Catherines
Seacow Head
Seven Mile Bay
Borden-Carlton
Victoria
Canoe Cove
Hillsborough Bay
St. Peters Island
Northumberland Strait
5 MILES
8 KM
N
1. Confederation Bridge
2. Kensington Towers & Water Gardens
3. Cabot Beach Provincial Park
4. Woodleigh Replicas & Gardens
5. Anne of Green Gables Museum; Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum
6. Lucy Maud Montgomery Birthplace
7. Prince Edward Island Marine Aquarium
8. Site of Montgomery Home
9. Robinsons Island
10. Prince Edward Island National Park (several locations)
11. Baywatch Lighthouse
12. Charlottetown Harbour
13. Port La Joye/Fort Amherst National Historic Site
14. Strathgartney Provincial Park
15. Brookvale Provincial Ski Park
Confederation Trail
BH Blue Heron Drive
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■ On Foot

The **Confederation Trail** runs through the very center of this part of the island, entering along the south side of Rte. 2 at Tracadie Cross. It brushes the northern edge of Charlottetown, passing through Brackley, where a side branch runs right into the center of Charlottetown. The trail is not a straight one; it winds through the center of the island trying to find a level route among the rolling hills. Just south of Hunter River it comes close to Rte. 2, then passes through Elliotts on Rte. 227 before going on to Breadalbane, Emerald, Freetown and on to Kensington. Maps of the trail are free at information centers all over the island. While the trail is level and well-surfaced for easy walking, we personally think it's better for cyclists, and not the most interesting walk in this part of the island. And unless you arrange for a pick-up, you're returning on the same trail.

We suggest that walkers head for the north coast beaches instead. Most of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence shore consists of protective sand barrier dunes and sandstone bluffs overlooking beaches, providing literally miles of beaches to walk, wander and beachcomb. Near the waterline, the sand is firm and easy to walk on. Start at **Dalvay Beach** in Prince Edward Island National Park and head west. To the end of Robinsons Island (formerly Rustico Island) is about 10-12 miles. Another option is to walk the beach at **Cavendish**. These are red sand beaches and, if you are wondering where the red sand comes from, look at the 20- to 30-foot sand bluffs behind the beaches. Much of the beach on the north shore has park roads paralleling it not far inland, so you can return by roads with slow-moving traffic.

HIKING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Outside Expeditions**, c/o Bryon Howard, Box 337, North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0, ☎ 902/963-3366 or 800/207-3899, www.getoutside.com. This husband-and-wife team runs tours in many places through out the island. Their shop is at the end of Harbour Rd.

■ **PEI Heritage Trail Tours**, c/o George Crawford, 17 Karen Dr., Charlottetown C1E 1V3, ☎ 902/368-2331 or 7337, e-mail heritagetrails@yahoo.com. This company conducts walking tours in out of the way places as well as some of the better known ones. Among other things they do sections of the Confederation Trail and seaside villages.

■ On Wheels

By Bicycle

From Charlottetown, we like the ride into the countryside around the **Hillsborough River basin**. From the southeast side of the city, cross over the mouth of the river on TC1. On the other side of the bridge, pick up Rte. 21 and follow it all along the southern shore of the river. If time allows, take a few side trips to the river. When you get to Pisquid, go left on Rte. 22, crossing over the twin bridges in Mount Stewart. This is about the halfway point and, as luck would have it, there is a great place to stop for lunch and a rest – Trailside Café. From there, take the Confederation Trail southwest. It runs fairly close to the river for about three miles before swinging inland near Tracadie Cross. As you get closer to Charlottetown, you can pick up any one of several routes south into the city, such as Rte. 25, or – our preference – stay on the trail and ride through Brackley. Just west of there, another trail goes right into the city. This is about a 40-mile trip, plus whatever you decide to do by way of side trips. A brochure published by the Hillsborough River Association describes some of the attractions along the route including marshes, wildlife viewing areas and historical sights. Their suggested route would have you return via Rte. 2, a very busy highway, but we prefer the Confederation Trail. Box 2203, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 9J2, ☎ 902/569-1416, e-mail river@isn.net.

TIP: If you plan to bike in PEI, bring your own helmet. Not only do you not want someone else's sweat, but helmets are not very popular or as readily available here as they are in the States. Rental shops may not provide them.

Here we go on again about the **Confederation Trail**, but it is the primary off-road route on the island, and an outstanding bikeway. From Tracadie in the east to Kensington you are talking about 40-45 miles on relatively easy-going terrain. Remember, that's one way, and the return is over the same route. On the upside, the trail runs cross-country, crossing roads, not paralleling them. Much of what you will see is untrammeled agricultural landscape, fields of potatoes, forests of spruce. It is a peaceful and enjoyable way to see this part of the island.

BICYCLING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ One of the most popular places to rent bicycles is **MacQueen's Bike Shop**. It's one of the biggest bike shops in the province, with a good selection of rentals and equipment. Bikes come with all of the gear; emergency road repair service is available for an additional $25. They suggest reservations, especially during the busi-

est periods. They know their stuff and can provide you with trail and route maps and suggestions. They also operate MacQueen's Island Tours (same phone numbers) for those who want to do independent bike touring but need help with the details. They can set up accommodations, dining, rentals, road repairs, luggage transfer and other pain-in-the-neck details. Both are open all year. 430 Queen St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/368-2453 or 800/969-2822, fax 902/894-4547, www.macqueens.com.

■ **Smooth Cycle** provides guided bicycle tours of the city every Tuesday from mid-June to mid-September for $28, which includes the bike, helmet, personal guide and a snack. Their staff are all cyclists and are eager to share their knowledge of trails and routes with customers. Free information and route maps are available for routes scouted out by their staff. They have bike tours of the city or of the whole island. They also provide full bike rental packages. Rentals are $16 half-day, $24/day. Open all year Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 5:30 pm. 172 Prince St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4R6, ☎ 902/566-5530, 800/310-6550 (in Canada only), www.smoothcycle.com.

■ **Fun On Wheels** has bikes for rent by the hour, day and week and they provide helmets, etc. They are open mid-May through September from 8 am to dusk. 19 Great George St., Box 2952, Charlottetown, PEI, ☎ 902/368-7161, winter 902/672-2870.

■ On the north shore in the Anne's Land area, **Northshore Rentals**, at Shaw's Hotel, Brackley Beach, ☎ 902/672-2022, is open mid-June to late September and can outfit the whole family with bikes and equipment. Rates are $6 per hour, $18 per day, with weekly rates available.

■ **Bike By the Sea** has a variety of tours available within Charlottetown. Their half-day tour includes the harbor and lighthouse, Victoria Park and Province House, and historic homes. Check with them for other offerings. The cost is $50 adults, $35 children, which includes bike, a guide and even a stop at COWS (an island icon) for ice cream. Tours are by reservation only and are given Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. They start at 9 Grafton St. in Charlottetown, but confirm the time and place with them when you book. ☎ 902/892-9933, 888/BIKEPEI, www.bikebythesea.com.

■ **Pedal Madness**, just over a mile from the National Park on Rte. 15, near Brackley Beach, has bike rentals available at $10 half-day, $15 for a full day. Open May through September, 8 am to dusk. ☎ 902/676-3149.

■ **Sunset Campground Bike Rentals**, on Rte. 6 beside the Cavendish Boardwalk in Cavendish, ☎ 800/715-2440 or 902/963-2440, has beach bikes and regular bicycles for all members of the

family in the $12 to $17 price range. They are open mid-June to September, 8 am to 10 pm.

■ Another well-regarded outfitter is **Outside Expeditions**, which has a shop at the end of Harbour Rd. in North Rustico. They provide guided trips across the island or help you to design your own and give you a hand with logistical support. Trips range from half-day jaunts to six-day expeditions, and they know the best trails. Rentals $25 per day, $100 per week, a half-day guided tour is $39. Open July and August, 8 am to dusk; June, September and October by reservation only. Contact Bryon Howard, PO Box 337, North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0, ☎ 902/963-3366, fax 963-3322, 800/207-3899, www.getoutside.com.

■ **Stanhope Bike Rentals**. This shop is close to the entrance to the National Park and has mountain bikes for men, women and children. Rentals include helmets, locks and water bottles. Open daily, June to mid-September, from 9:30 am to 9:30 pm. Rates are $5 per hour or $20 a day with weekly rates available. Warren's Rd. at Stanhope Cottages, ☎ 902/629-1416, 888/807-2011.

■ **Island Chocolates** on Main Street in Victoria has a few bikes to rent. Yes, a chocolate shop is a funny place to look for bikes, but biking around this little town and its environs would be fun. They operate **Victorian Cycle Rentals**, which has half- and full-day rentals from mid-June to the end of September. They provide the route map. Open daily, 10 am to 6 pm. ☎ 902/658-2320.

■ South of Kensington are rentals at **Wheels Bicycle Rentals**, in Kelvin Grove, open all year. Half-day rentals are $10.95, daily $15.95, and weekly $69.95. They will deliver free in the Summerside/Kensington area. ☎ 902/836-5189, 800/255-5160, e-mail gcaseley@pei.sympatico.ca.

Tours by Vehicle

Beach Shuttle, in Charlottetown, operates a "Tip to Tip" two-day tour of the island for small groups. They travel by van and hit most of the highlights. If there is something in particular that you want to see, tell them and they will try to accommodate you. ☎ 902/566-3243.

Mid-Isle Shuttle has a series of two- or four-hour tours of the island, as well as several full-day tours. The two-hour tours cover the North Shore, the Green Gables House, the MacPhail Homestead, and the West River area, including Fort Amherst and a Charlottetown craft studio tour. Call them for reservations and details. They will also customize an itinerary. Tours are available May through mid-September. ☎ 902/675-2528, 888/908-2800.

Island Outdoor Adventures tours Charlottetown on a four- to five-hour tour on Wednesday mornings and Sunday afternoons, covering lighthouses and historic churches. The van is air conditioned, and tours run about $30. Contact Dawna Gillis in Borden-Carleton, ☎ 902/855-3198, 855-2007, 877/868-7734, fax 902/855-2350, e-mail dawna.gillis@pei.sympatico.ca.

■ On Water

Beaches

Probably the very best beaches in the province are found within the boundaries of **Prince Edward Island National Park**, and they stretch from New London Bay, through Cavendish, to North Rustico and from Robinsons Island (formerly called Rustico Island) another 15 miles or so across Tracadie Bay. Our kids grew up camping, digging clams and playing in the sand here, and we still can't think of a nicer place. The air is warm, the sand is fine-textured (where else can your kids build red sand castles?), and the water warmer than anywhere north of the Carolinas. (Read fast here, before we haul out the baby pictures.) At the entrances to each area they can give you directions to all the facilities.

From Rte. 6 just west of **Grand Tracadie**, take the road to Dalvay and you'll find beaches all along the road. At **Stanhope**, take Rte. 25 north along Covehead Bay to the beach road; from Rte. 6 at **Brackley Beach**, take Rte. 15 to the shore and follow it west on the park road to Robinsons Island. At **Cavendish**, again on Rte. 6, watch for signs on the north side of the road or ask at the information center on Rte. 6.

If you follow the Blue Heron Trail farther west, it will become Rte. 20. When you get to **Malpeque**, of oyster fame, take the road northwest out of town to **Cabot Beach Provincial Park**. On the south shore are small, relatively unknown beaches at Victoria and Argyle Shore Provincial Parks.

TIP: If you are in Charlottetown and want to spend a day on the beach, call **The Shuttle**. This company operates a 15-passenger van that runs from Charlottetown to the beaches at Cavendish several times a day. The rate is $16 round-trip the same day and $10 one way. It operates June through September, picking up passengers in Charlottetown at the Dundee Arms Hotel (200 Pownal St.), Visitors Information Centre (178 Water St.) and the Youth Hostel (153 Mount Edward Rd.). The schedule changes, so call before planning your day; ☎ 902/566-3243.

Canoeing & Kayaking

Finding rental places for canoes and kayaks is not too difficult here if you reserve ahead, and if you have your own it is not hard to find places to put in. Keep in mind, however, that all of these waters are tidal and you must take the tides and currents into consideration when paddling here.

In the Charlottetown area, the **Hillsborough River** is a broad watery boulevard that stretches northeast into the heart of the province. North of town the shores are unsettled. From a put-in at Mount Stewart you can paddle south toward the city. Another choice is the south shore of the **North River,** which runs along the southern side of Charlottetown. The **West River** is the part of Charlottetown harbor that runs south from the city all the way down to Strathgartney Provincial Park. It's a long river with an interesting shoreline. On the northeast side is the long peninsula that ends at Fort Amherst National Historic Site.

On the north shore of the island there are several choices. We do not suggest getting out into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, but on the peaceful side of those barrier dunes there is a lot of nice water to explore. Starting on the east side, at **Tracadie Bay** there is a large body of water and on the south west side is an inlet to **Winter Bay** and the **Winter River**.

> **CAUTION:** On the north shore, avoid the area near the opening to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, where the currents are likely to be tricky and dangerous.

In the center of this section of the province is **Rustico Bay** and **North Rustico Harbour**. Rustico Bay is formed by the protective arm of Robinsons Island. The harbor backs up to the island, but south of it there is a long reach that becomes the **Wheatley River**, leading to a town of the same name. On the west side of the bay at Rustico Harbour, where the bay opens to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the **Hunter River** enters and you can paddle all the way to the town of the same name.

> **CAUTION:** At Rustico Harbour, be wary of the currents around the entrance to the harbor as they can be fierce. There are also sand bars at the entrance to the harbor that could pose a big problem in even a moderate surf.

CANOE & KAYAK OUTFITTERS – GUIDED TOURS

■ **Trailside Café and Adventures** is in Mount Stewart, in the eastern section of the island, but it isn't far from Charlottetown and is a good place start a paddle downriver toward Charlottetown. Watersport rentals are among their offerings. The café can

put up lunches or you can eat there before or after your trip. Canoe rental rates are about $15 per day. They will help you get the canoes to the Hillsborough (just barely down the street) or Morell rivers, but they do not have racks. All other equipment is available. 109 Main Street, Mount Stewart, PEI C0A 1T0, ☎ 888/704-6595, 902/676-3130 or 902/892/7498, winter 902/368-1202.

■ **Paddle PEI** operates a full-service kayak shop from the National Park. They offer half- , full- and two-day trips and rent equipment as well. The canoeing and kayaking available in the Brudenell River and Georgetown Bay are outstanding. They are able to handle all skill levels from beginner up. Open June through September, 9 am to 8 pm. 41 Allen St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 2V6. They also have a location at Brudenell River Provincial Park, ☎ 902/652-2434.

■ North of Borden-Carleton, in the town of South Freetown, you will find **Scales Pond Community Park**, a local endeavor that has created a park on the Dunk River. The river flows west from here into the bay that forms Summerside Harbour. Canoe and kayak rentals are available as well as fishing, a picnic area and a nature trail. Open July and August, 9 am to dusk; and June, September and October by reservation. There is no fee for using the park. Rte. 109 northwest of Kinkora, ☎ 902/887-2530 or 3249.

■ **Watersport PEI** has canoes, boats, sailboats and windsurfers for rent. They open daily, mid-June to September, from 10 am to dusk. Rte. 6, Stanley Bridge, ☎ 902/886-2323 or 902/886-3313.

■ **Fun On Wheels** has kayaks and canoes for rent and can provide PFDs (personal flotation devices) and other needed equipment. Hourly, daily and weekly rates are available, 8 am to dusk, from mid-May to the end of September. 19 Great George St. in Charlottetown, ☎ 902/368-7161, winter 902/894-4837.

■ **St. Catherine's Cove Canoe Rental, Inc.**, St. Catherine's, ☎ 902 675-2035, provides canoes for a paddle along the Elliot River, an arm of the tidal West River that starts opposite Charlottetown Harbour. Here the river is rural and bucolic with views of the hills along the shore. The rentals are from a small farm with lots of barnyard animals for kids to enjoy. They operate from dawn to dusk but are dependent on the tides, so it's best to call ahead for a reservation and the best times. They have both 14- and 16-foot fiberglass canoes. Open May 1 to late October. Rates are $7.25 per hour or $24 per day. Reserve ahead so you can get the best times to deal with the tides.

■ **By the Sea Kayaking** is located right next to the lighthouse in Victoria, just where the road turns to enter town. They conduct tours daily during the season from sunrise to sunset. Call for res-

ervations before going and to check for weather conditions and departure times. ☎ 902/658-2572 or 877/879-2572.

■ **Outdoor Pursuits**, on Tracadie Harbour Wharf, provides an opportunity to explore the shore of Blooming Point sandspit. They use a 24-foot reproduction of a Micmac canoe that holds eight people. The outing is accompanied by an experienced outdoor guide who provides interpretation of the site. They also have instruction and canoe rental available. Open June through September, the tour rate is $15 per paddler and special family rates are available. Tours are conducted in the morning, at noon and in the evenings. Call to confirm trip availability and times and to make reservations. John Hughes, Corran Ban, Mount Stewart, PEI C0A 1T0, ☎ 902/672-2000, www.members.nbci.com/_XOOM/outdr_prsts/.

■ **PEI Heritage Trail Tours** offers canoe trips from various location on the island. Contact George Crawford, 17 Karen Dr., Charlottetown C1E 1V3, ☎ 902/368-2331, or 7337, e-mail heritagetrails@yahoo.com.

■ **Northshore Rentals** has canoes, river kayaks and rowboats for rent. They have their quarters at Shaw's Hotel in Brackley Beach. Open late June to early September. ☎ 902/672-2022.

■ **Baydancer Funcraft**, located at Stanley Bridge, rents easy-to-use sit-on-top kayaks, which you can paddle up the Stanley River and around New London Bay. Mid-June to mid-September, daily, 9 am to 8 pm; ☎ 902/621-0671.

■ **Malpeque Bay Kayak Tours** runs top-notch half- and full-day tours of the bay with Anne Murray and her associates. Malpeque is a huge, gentle piece of water teeming with wildlife. One tour takes you to secluded beaches where you see sand dunes, waterfowl and marine life; another paddles all the way around an island that is so covered with birds that you can hear their squawking from a long way out in the bay (and are inspired to paddle faster when you are downwind on a warm day). Waters here are warm because of the shallowness of the bay, and the water depth is a great comfort to new kayakers. The tour includes full instruction and the guides continue to give tips and instruction to those who want to improve their skills. Departures are from Rte. 20, adjacent to Cabot Provincial Park. Contact Anne Murray, 47B St. Margarets Bay Rd., Halifax NS B3N 1J8, ☎ 902/836-3784, 432-0111, toll-free 866/582-3383 (in winter, ☎ 902/477-2820), e-mail kayaktour@hotmail.com, www.pavonis.org/kayaktour.

Diving

Black Dolphin Diving and Watersports is in Charlottetown, handy for trips to any part of the island. They rent and sell diving-related equip-

ment and wetsuits. Their PADI-qualified instructors can train beginners or help more experienced divers brush up. Ask them for suggested dive spots; they will arrange charters. They are open all year. From May through October, hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 6 pm; Friday, 9 am to 8 pm; and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. From November through April, they are open Monday through Friday, 11:30 am to 5:30 pm and Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. 106 Hillsboro St., Box 3037, Charlottetown C1A 7N9, ☎ 902/894-3483.

At **Mr. Snorkel Adventures**, owner Richard Samson conducts guided snorkeling trips in the bay and along the coast of Cavendish, all in shallow waters. They use an inflatable Zodiac boat and provide the wet suits, snorkel gear and guide (but bring your own bathing suit). Trips last about three hours and reservations are preferred. Open June through September. Rates are $28 adults, $15 children (eight-17). Box 6231, Cornwall, PEI C0A 1H0, ☎ 902/894-7552, 888/-678-0235.

Harbor & Bay Tours

From Charlottetown, **Imperial Harbour Cruises**, ☎ 902/628-5263 (LAND) or 902/368-2628(BOAT), depart from the Prince Street Wharf for a cruise of the harbor with a description of the history and the passing sights. Daytime and sunset cruises run daily from June through September. Prices vary with the cruise and range from $8 to $20.

There is a unique chance in Charlottetown to do your own harbor tour. **Island Houseboat Holidays, Inc.** has 8x35-foot houseboats that sleep six for rent at berths in Charlottetown. Take your home-away-from-home and travel up the Hillsborough River, which runs north of the capital and almost cuts the island in half. Or sail into the West River or up into the North River. Reservations are required. Available between mid-April and mid-October. Contact them c/o Sanderson/Miller, 65 Douglas St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 2J4, ☎ 800/840-5322, winter 902/566-1104.

To sail through Charlottetown's harbor on a typical salt banker, look for the ***Mercy Coles***, ☎ 902/892-9065, at Peakes Wharf, behind The Prince Edward Hotel. It sails daily at 10 am, 2 pm and 6 pm in the summer. This type of two-masted schooner was used for fishing throughout the 19th century.

Saga Sailing Adventures sails from Charlottetown harbor from late June to early September. Morning, afternoon and evening departures are available and their rates are $45 adults, $20 children age 12 an under. Call for reservations and departure times. Kurt Martel, Charlottetown Harbour, ☎ 902/672-1222, e-mail sagapei@hotmail.com, www.virtuo.com/sagasail.

Peakes Wharf Boat Tours and Seal Watching sail from the wharf where Confederation leaders disembarked from their ships. One of the more popular options is their marine life and seal tour, which leaves at 2:30 pm. A guided tour of the harbor sails at 1 pm, an evening cruise at

6:30, and a sunset cruise leaves at 8 pm. Tours operate from June 1 to September 30. Rates are $14-20 adults (depending on the cruise), children under 12 half-price. 1 Great George St. at Peakes Wharf, Charlottetown, ☎ 902/566-4458, fax 566-9861, e-mail quartermaster@pei.aibn.com.

Stanley Bridge Harbour Cruises sail New London Bay, a large protected body of water near the Cavendish end of Prince Edward National Park. The tour is on a 42-foot fishing boat and includes a sampling of PEI mussels. You will see the mussel farms on the tour, as well as the inner side of the sand dunes, a couple of lighthouses and some nesting cormorants. Captain Brown operates July to late September with departures daily at 2, 4:30 and 7 pm. $15 adults, $8 children (12 and below). Captain David Brown, Stanley Bridge Wharf, Rte. 6, Stanley Bridge, ☎ 902/886-2474 (in winter, 902/621-0649).

Sail PEI departs from Rustico Harbour on a half-day sail aboard the 30-foot sloop *Friendship*. The trips are about three hours long, and you can take the helm, set sail or do nothing as you wish. They sail from Rustico Harbour Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11 am June through September, cost $30 per person. Captain Jack MacDonald, Rustico Harbour, ☎ 902/963-3100.

Fishing

The north shore of the central part of the island is headquarters for a fleet of deep-sea fishing boats, and you can catch a variety of saltwater fish, with mackerel predominating.

Our kids learned to fish with family-operated **Gauthier's Deep Sea Fishing** in Rusticoville, ☎ 902/963-2295 or 902/963-2191. They are one of the oldest fishing trip services and, we think, one of the best. It's a class act and they pay extra attention to children. They have rods, reels, tackle, and rain gear, and will clean your catch at the end of the trip. In late August they will also take you to tuna territory. Open July to early September.

Aiden Doiron's Deep Sea Fishing in North Rustico, ☎ 902/963-2442 or 902/963-2039, runs daily fishing trips aboard the *Dougie D* and *Island Prince* between July 1 and mid-September. They supply the rods and bait. They will also do charter and shoreline cruising trips by prior arrangement. Early risers get free coffee aboard, and they have a market and canteen at the wharf where you can get fresh or cooked lobster or fresh seafood to cook at your campsite.

Also operating out of North Rustico are **Barry Doucette's Deep Sea Fishing**, ☎ 902/963-2465 or 963-2611, and **Bob's Deep Sea Fishing**, ☎ 902/963-2666 or 902/963-2086. Both supply all equipment and will clean and bag your catch on their 3½-hour trips. **Bearded Skipper's Deep Sea Fishing**, North Rustico Wharf, ☎ 902/963-2334 or 902/963-2525, also provides the same services. Barry Doucette and the Bearded

Skipper are open July 1 to early September and Bob stays open a week or so later.

Salty Seas Deep Sea Fishing at nearby Covehead Harbour, ☎ 902/672-2346 or 902/672-2681, operates from July to the end of September. Their guarantee: "No fish, no charge." **Richard's Deep Sea Fishing**, ☎ 902/672-2376, also operates from Covehead Harbour during the same months.

Court Brothers has fishing trips from North Rustico Harbour at 8 am, 1 pm and 6 pm, in July and August. They also fish in June and September with varying hours. The family fishing operation has been ongoing for more than a century and the present family members value their connection to the sea. Their rates are $20 adults, $15 children (under 12). Call them for reservations. They are located next to Outside Expeditions Sea Kayaking in North Rustico Harbour, ☎ 902/962-2322.

Ivan's Deep Sea Fishing sails from Malpeque, providing the rods and reels and bait. Four-hour trips leave at 8 am and 1 pm, with rates of $20 adults, $15 children under 12. When you make reservations they'll give instructions on the departure point for that trip; ☎ 902/436-9730.

■ On Snow

Skiing

While there is some skiing here, it is limited by the nature of the terrain and the weather conditions. The relatively flat, rolling ground doesn't lend itself to downhill skiing, but **Brookvale Provincial Ski Park** in Crapaud, ☎ 902/658-2925, is a small area with chairlifts and night skiing.

Although you probably wouldn't plan to spend your Alpine skiing vacation there, it gives a little variety to a winter trip. You couldn't ask for a less threatening place to learn downhill skiing than at the **PEI Alpine Ski School**, Brookvale, ☎ 902/658-2142.

Prince Edward Island National Park, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350, runs along the north coast; in winter it has groomed trails, all quite level, and nice sea views.

Southwest of Charlottetown in Crapaud, **Brookvale Nordic Touring Centre**, ☎ 902/658-2925, has miles of nicely groomed trails, which are used for major cross-country ski competitions. There are also lighted night skiing trails.

■ On Horseback

Close to the center of Anne's Land, **Cavendish Trail Rides**, ☎ 902/963-2824, is located in Cavendish and provides a chance for a quiet ride on a country trail, much the same as Lucy Maud

Montgomery might have enjoyed. They also have pony rides in the barnyard for younger children. They are open daily from late June to September, 9:30 am to 8 pm, and charge $8 per ride. Between Cavendish Corner and Stanley Bridge, take Mill Rd. toward Hope River.

Just a three-mile trot south of Cavendish, **Grant's Trail Rides** (no telephone), operates out of Mayfield on Rte. 13. They have over 2½ miles of private trail with a separate pony trail for kids. Open mid-June to September, $8 per ride. They also have small farm animals for children to pet.

Jeannie's Trail Rides, Ltd., South Rustico, ☎ 902/964-3384, operates from June to September and has a 45-minute ride through woods and fields overlooking Rustico Harbor. A separate trail for children on ponies and the farmyard animals make this fun for the whole family. From Rte. 6 at South Rustico, take Rte. 243 south at the Clover Farm Store; they're on the right. Open daily, June through September, 9:30 am to 8 pm. Rides are $8.

Millstream Trail Rides, Brackley Beach, ☎ 902/672-2210, on Rte. 15 at Britain Shore Rd., also has rides. They're open mid-June to mid-September from 10 am to dusk daily. Rates are $9 for trail rides and $3 for a child's ride in the paddock.

South of Stanley Bridge on Rte. 254, **Ride Brimstone Hollow**, ☎ 902/886-2225, is across from the Devil's Punch Bowl (which might give you some idea of where the name came from). They promise a trail ride like no other and operate from mid-June to September daily, "sunup to sundown."

North Bedeque is on Rte. 1A, west of Borden-Carleton, and there you will find **Meadowside Stables**, ☎ 902/888-2568. For $10 you can enjoy an hour-long ride along quiet back roads and river banks in this almost unknown part of the province. They are open Monday through Saturday all year. You should make reservations.

Confederation View Stables offers a lot for riding enthusiasts. They have riding with English and western saddles, lessons, camps and trail rides through the local countryside. Indoor and outdoor arenas are also available. The stables are run by Brent and Kendra Biggar, on Rte. 10 northwest of Borden-Carleton, ☎ 902/437-3288, fax 437/6646.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

■ Tours

Island Nature Trust Tours, c/o Kate MacQuarrie, Box 265, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7K4, ☎ 902/566-9150, fax 902/628-6331

operates between mid-May and the end of October. Their tours concentrate on natural history and the birds, fish, and animals of the island. They visit dunes, woods, beaches, cliffs and wetlands for a broad look at the ecology of the island. Rates depend on the tour but whole day rates start at $125, and they will customize your tour if there is something in particular you want to see.

Island Outdoor Adventures has a very broad range of outdoor and nature tours that cover the central and other parts of the island. An Eco Walking tour includes three hours on trails, heritage roads and in natural areas with a naturalist guide ($20). A field day for women covers basic outdoor skills, such as nature observation, fishing, outdoor cooking and canoeing ($60). A birding program teaches identification of local species ($45) and on a special three-hour guided Link-by-Link walking program along the shore of Borden-Carleton you can learn about the evolution of the island, of its people and their stories ($15). Call Dawna Gillis in Borden-Carleton, ☎ 902/855-3198, 855-2007, 877/868-7734, fax 902/855-2350, e-mail dawna.gillis@pei.sympatico.ca.

■ Ceilidhs & Theater

The **Malpeque Community Ceilidh** is held every Wednesday night from June to early September, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Malpeque Community Hall. Local musicians Mike Pendergast and Tom McSwiggan are featured. It's a PEI experience. Adults $5; children two-12, $3. It's on Rte. 20 at Malpeque Corner, ☎ 902/836-4310.

The amazing little **Victoria Playhouse** has a busy schedule of plays, storytelling and music that runs daily through the summer from the end of June until Labor Day, with a few performances in September. It has only 150 seats, and there isn't a bad seat in the house. This professional repertory theater has been presenting drama and musical productions in the town's historic theater for two decades. Past presentations have included the world premiere of *Conjugal Rites*, a farce by young playwright Pam Stevenson, and a concert series that featured everything from a classical quartet to folk and bluegrass. They play to packed houses, so early reservations are suggested. The performers and artists are top quality and from all over the Atlantic Provinces. They generally run two different shows with performances on alternating nights with the exception of Mondays, which is a concert night. Tickets are $16 adult, $14 senior and students; Sunday matinees and previews are $12. Curtain time is 8 pm (2 pm for Sunday matinee). Theater/dinner packages are available. Off Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2025, 800/925-2025.

The **Harbourfront Jubilee Theatre** operates a professional-level theater through the summer, with a pair of shows that alternate night. Works of contemporary playwrights and musicals are the fare. Tickets run about $17. For information, contact The Wyatt Centre, 124 Harbourside Dr., Summerside, PEI C1N 5Y8, ☎ 800/708-6505 or 902/888-

2787, fax 902/888-4468, www.auracom.com/~hjtpei, e-mail hjtpei@auracom.com.

The annual Charlottetown Festival is held at the **Confederation Centre of the Arts**, from late June to mid-October. The emphasis in all of their productions is on Canadian culture, life and the Canadian experience. It's not only fun, but a great way to get to know Canadians better. Guest performers, special shows, and a list of musical performances are highlights. Annually the festival features a musical *Anne of Green Gables*, based on Prince Edward Island's own fictional heroine. A number of other shows have been presented, including *Emily*, *Ceilidh On The Road*, and the Maritimes folk group Barachois. Schedules and tickets are at the box office near the corner of Queen and Grafton streets. Prices range from $16.50 to $30. The children's theater has several productions as well. 145 Richmond St., Charlottetown, For reservations, ☎ 902/566-1267, 800/565-0278 in North America year-round; fax 902/566-4648, or stop for tickets 9 am to 9 pm, Monday-Saturday, from late June through mid-September.

■ Wildlife-Watching

Prince Edward Island National Park protects a shoreline rich in wildlife habitats: sand dunes, beaches, cliffs, salt marshes, clam flats, freshwater ponds and woodlands. To explore the park from June through September, you must pay a fee, but the facilities are open the rest of the year without a fee. For information, contact Prince Edward Island National Park, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350.

Park visitors have recorded sightings of more than 250 species of birds, due mostly to the area's protected nesting areas. The dunes are home to the park's most impressive rarity, the piping plover, which can be seen out and about on unoccupied beaches. Their nesting areas are carefully protected during nesting season, but the birds don't always read the signs and stay inside the barriers. Covehead, Brackley, and the Rustico area all have large, sheltered bays where you can see shorebirds from mid-July through autumn.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: Avid birders will love the opportunity to report their rare bird sightings to the **Bird's Eye Nature Store** in Charlottetown (41 University Ave.; ☎ 902/566-3825) or to the **PEI Natural History Society**, PO Box 2346, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 8C1.

The best birding is at the ponds inside the dunes early in the morning. Many birds that get blown off course during migration end up on PEI,

making it possible to see species well out of their usual range. Nature programs and walks are scheduled regularly at the park during the summer, and the park visitors center has ample material on the wildlife you can see there. Get a copy of *Birdlife of the Prince Edward Island National Park*, a brochure available at the visitor center.

RECOMMENDED READING: Two handy books are ***Familiar Birds of Prince Edward Island*** and ***25 of the Best, Easy to Reach Birding Spots on Prince Edward Island***, both by Geoff Hogan. Maps in the latter may be difficult to follow if you don't know the island well, so be sure to have a map handy when you use it.

Prince Edward Island Marine Aquarium, Rte. 6, Stanley Bridge, ☎ 902/892-2203, gives you a close-up look at seals playing. Tanks of fish show who lives under all that water around you. They also have interesting, if unrelated, displays of more than 750 mounted bird specimens from around the world and a display of butterflies. The aquarium is open daily from mid-June to October, 9 am to dusk. Admission $5 adults; $2.50 for children six-14.

Charlottetown Harbour's pilings are a good place to see terns nesting early in the summer, and when they leave, the double crested cormorants meet here to get ready for their long flight south. Gulls, of course, plus ducks and other shore birds are a common sight. As you are looking out into the harbor, don't ignore the splashes, which might be harbour seals or porpoises.

■ Natural Areas

The top of five-story **Baywatch Lighthouse**, at the junction of routes 6 and 15 at Brackley Beach, is a good vantage point for views of the beaches and dunes of the north coast. Inside is a display of photos of the island lighthouses and another display of the migratory waterfowl and upland birds of the island. It's open June to early September, and there is a small fee for access to the tower.

Sightseeing

■ Museums & Historic Sites

Charlottetown

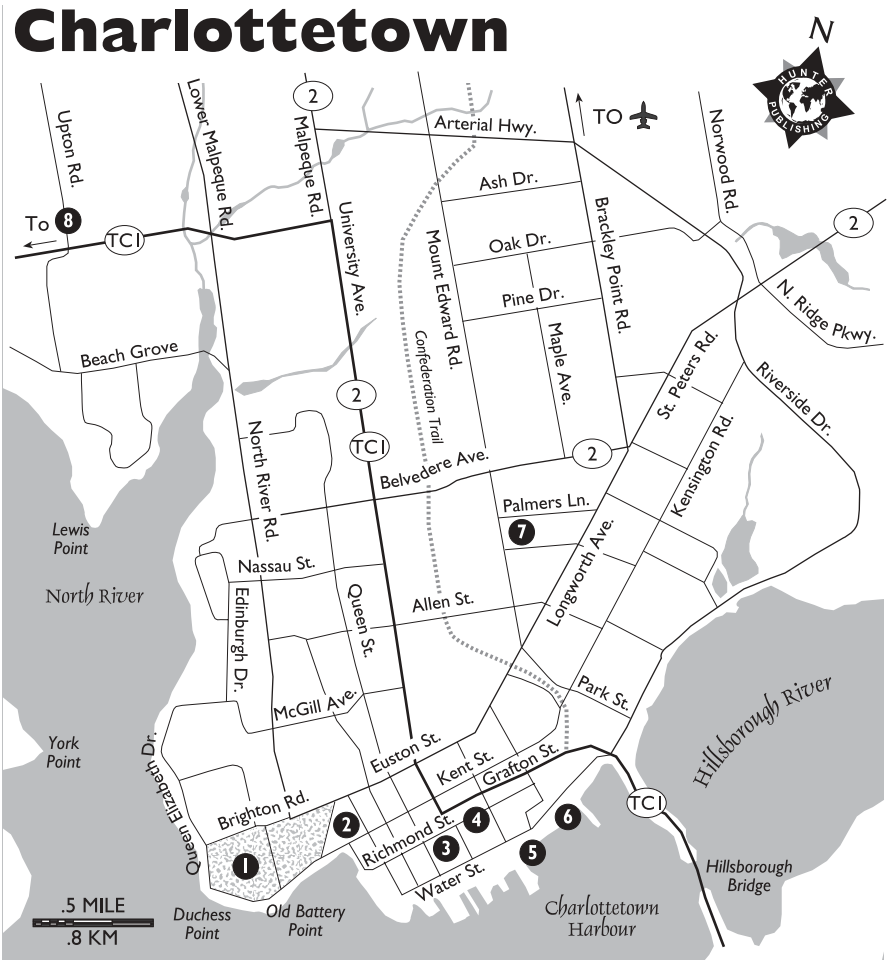
Province House, ☎ 902/566-7626, at the corner of Richmond and Great George streets in Charlottetown, is an active legislative building and still houses the Provincial Legislature. It was here that Canadian leaders gathered in 1864 to discuss a possible union of the provinces, making this the "Birthplace of Confederation." Several rooms have been restored to their appearance at the time of the historic meeting and are open when not in use. Guides are available and there is an introductory film. In June, it's open 9 am to 5 pm daily; in July and August, 9 am to 6 pm; from September through the first week of October, 9 am to 5 pm; and from mid-October through May, 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays.

Ardgowan National Historic Site, Corner of Mount Edward Rd. and Palmers Ln., Charlottetown (☎ 902/566-7050) is the historic Victorian home of William Henry Pope, one of the prime movers in the Confederation movement, and was the site of a grand party for participants in the Confederation conference. It is now the headquarters of Parks Canada. Its gardens are open to the public and are a fine example of a private Victorian garden, with a croquet lawn and ornate hedges. During July and August, guided walks of the gardens are given weekly (call for times).

Beaconsfield Historic House, on the waterfront at 2 Kent St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/368-6603, was built in 1877 by shipbuilder James Peake, Jr. His home reflected his wealth, with imported chandeliers, marble fireplaces, central heat and gas lighting. The exterior shows the influence of the Victorian Second Empire, with its mansard roof and ornate wraparound veranda, but adds Georgian detail with bonnet-roofed dormers on the third floor. Open all year; September through June, Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm; in July and August, daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is $2.50 for adults, children under 12 free.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts is the largest public art gallery and museum in the Atlantic provinces. It holds a series of special exhibitions through out the year, many of which focus on Canadian art and artists, both from historical and contemporary perspectives. Free tours of the Centre are available Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, from mid-June through August. 145 Richmond St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/628-6142, www.confederationcentre.com.

Port-la-Joye/Fort Amherst National Historic Site, Rocky Point, ☎ 902/566-7626, is the place where European influence on the island began, with the arrival of 300 French settlers and a troop of soldiers in 1720. While nearly all of the French settlement and fort are gone, the founda-



1. Victoria Park
2. Beaconsfield Historic House & Heritage Foundation
3. Confederation Centre of the Arts
4. Province House
5. Convention Centre
6. Peakes Wharf Shops
7. Ardgowan National Historic Site
8. Fort Amherst/Port La Joye National Historic Site

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tions of the 1758 British fort are still there. There is a small but interesting display at the Visitor Centre. From there, walk down a path to the earthwork redoubts of the old British fort. Its importance as a means to control access to the harbor is easily seen from its walls. The French fort, Port-la-Joye, was farther down the slope toward the water. It was destroyed when Fort Amherst was built. The grounds area open May through November, and the site is staffed daily from mid-June to September, 9 am to 5 pm. Take TransCanada-1 south from Charlottetown and

then follow Rte. 19 (Blue Heron Trail) north to Rocky Point. From Rocky Point take Blockhouse Rd. to the park entrance on the left.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHT: In 1745, New Englanders raided and burned the French settlement, but they and the British left in 1748. Only 10 years later, England and France were at war again, and in August of 1758 the British again seized the fort, for the last time.

North Shore

The Keir Memorial Museum, Rte. 20, Malpeque, ☎ 902/836-3054, has exhibits on the inhabitants of the area from Micmacs through the Acadians to the Scots and Brits, and on the oyster industry that has made Malpeque famous throughout the oyster-eating world. It is open July and August on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm, and on weekends from 1 to 5 pm. Nominal admission.

The popularity of Lucy Maud Montgomery's semi-autobiographical island girl, **Anne of Green Gables**, has created a culture of its own in the central part of the island. Of the several Anne museums and souvenir shops with Anne everythings, we've culled these:

Anne of Green Gables Museum at Silver Bush, Rte. 20 in Park Corner, ☎ 902/436-7329, is one of the primary places associated with the life of Lucy Maud Montgomery. She said of the house that "... the very walls seem to be permeated with the essence of 'good times'.... " It was the home of her aunt and uncle, the Campbells, and it was in this house that Lucy was married in 1911. The organ that played at her wedding is still in place near the black mantelpiece where she was married. The house contains many items associated with her life and the characters of her novels. Since the airing of *Anne of Green Gables* in Japan some years ago, Japanese couples have flocked here, many to be married at this home. The Shining Waters Tea Room and a crafts and an antiques shop are also here, and you can take a ride on "Matthew's Wagon" through the field behind the house to the Lake of Shining Waters.

Lucy Maud Montgomery Birthplace, corner of Rtes. 6 and 20, New London, ☎ 902/886-2099 or 902/436-7329, is a modest little house, where you can see a fairly typical island home of the late 1800s. It is furnished with items from the late 19th century; among the treasures on display is Lucy's wedding dress. Although Lucy was born here, she went as a child to be reared by her maternal grandparents in Cavendish.

Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Museum on Rte. 20 in Park Corner, ☎ 902/886-2807 or 902/886-2752, was the home of her grandfather, a place she visited often and which played a big part in her books.

Site of Lucy Maud Montgomery Home, Rte. 6, Cavendish, ☎ 902/9963-2231, is a pleasant stop, even though the home is gone. The fields, trees and pathways that she loved and wrote about are still here. The site and the bookstore/museum here are run by her great-grandson, John MacNeill, and his wife, Jennie.

South Shore

Car Life Museum is easy to spot alongside TC1 at Bonshaw, by the collection of heroic old farm tractors that decorate its front yard. Inside the long, low building is a fine collection of 20 cars, from an 1898 Mason Steamer to more current versions, such as Elvis Presley's pink 1959 Cadillac. A small gift shop handles old car memorabilia. The museum is open daily in May, June and September from 10 am to 5 pm; in July and August from 9 am to 7 pm. Admission is $5 adults; $2 kids for under 14; $4.50 for seniors (65 and over). ☎ 902/675-3555.

■ Family Activities

Woodleigh Replicas & Gardens has over 30 scale models of English (and Scottish) buildings, from castles that you can walk through to the tiny Shakespeare's home. Some of these are small but perfect replicas, like the elfin-sized Anne Hathaway Cottage and Yorkminster Cathedral, perfect down to the tiny rocks in the cathedral and miniature flowers in Anne's garden. Others are on a grander scale, like Dunvegan Castle and Waterloo Barracks, where you can wander through rooms full of baronial furniture and suits of armor. This is definitely more than a kids place and is well worth seeing for the craftsmanship involved, as well as for the gardens in which these buildings are set. More than 40 acres of beautiful gardens and lawns continue to expand with each visit we make. On a slight hillside overlooking the miniatures, the varying styles of gardens change with the seasons. A rare English hedge maze – a real one that you can easily get lost in – is adjacent to the replicas, but easy to miss. Woodleigh is open daily from early June to mid-October. In June, September and October, hours are from 9 am to 5 pm; in July and August it's open until 7 pm. Admission is $6.50 adults, $6 senior and youth, $3.50 children. Family rates are available. Rte. 234 in Burlington, ☎ 902/836-3401, fax 902/836-3620, www.woodleighreplicas.com. Take Rte. 101 north from Kensington, or Rte. 20 north from New London.

Kensington Towers and Water Gardens is similar to but different from the famous and older Woodleigh Replicas. There is a bit more of amusement park to the King Arthur's Camelot, designed for kids, and to the Tipsey Turvey Gallery. The main attraction for us is the large water gardens, which contain an acre of waterfalls, pools, streams and fountains with gardens interspersed. Dropped in along the way you'll find Bavaria's Neuschwanstein Castle, Paris' Eiffel Tower and reproductions of medieval streets. Open late June to early October. $5 adults, $2 children. Rte. 2, Kensington. ☎ 902/836-3336, 836-3667.

Do Duck Inn Petting Farm is a small, privately run petting farm and is a good place for kids to connect with animals. Baby farm animals, pony rides, exotic birds and a wildlife trail make a varied experience that appeals to children of all ages. From Kensington, take Rte. 101 north; go left onto Rte. 104 west, then turn north onto Rte. 102. The petting farm will be on the right next to a pond. Open daily, mid-May to Labor Day, 11 am to 8 pm; ☎ 902/836-5219.

■ Shopping, Arts & Crafts, Food

Charlottetown

Fancy Linens and Handcrafts is the place for fine fabric goods, including handmade quilts, wallhangings and tapestries. Tablecloths come embroidered, crocheted or in Battenburg work. Look also for pillow sets of varying sizes, fancy pillow cases and lap quilts. The crafts include locally produced pottery and red oak clocks. The shop is open daily in the summer from 8 am to 10 pm; Monday-Saturday in the winter, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. 98 Kent St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/566-3480.

Peakes Wharf is where "The Fathers" landed before heading uptown amidst great pomp to talk about setting up Canada. Today it has a collection of shops selling gifts, seafood, cruises and souvenirs. The wharf is a good place to go for a low-key afternoon of wandering and browsing. It's on Water St., at the end of Great George St., next to the Convention Centre in Charlottetown. It's open daily, May through October, 10 am to 10 pm.

The Island Craft Shop, in Charlottetown's Victoria Row, is a handy place to find some of the best crafts from around the province. A broad spectrum is covered, from weaving and fabric art to pottery, handmade wooden items and stained glass. From July to mid-September, it's open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 8 pm; Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm. In June and September through December, hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; from January through May, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. 156 Richmond St., ☎ 902/892-5152.

Moonsnail Soapworks and Aromatherapy makes its soaps right there in the shop and they will show you how. They create 25 different varieties and are open all year. 87 Water St. (across from the Delta Prince Edward Hotel), ☎ 902/892-7627(SOAP).

Charlottetown Farmers Market is a local affair where people really go to shop, year-round, on Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm. During the summer it's also open on Wednesdays from 9 am to 2 pm. Here you can find a wide range of local crafts, as well as some of the best produce in the province. Baked products, honeys, herbal crafts, and take-out or eat-in foods are all available. 100 Belvedere Ave., ☎ 902/626-3373.

Stanley Pottery is the shop and studio of award-winning Malcolm and Christine Stanley, where you can see their ceramic works of art. If you have been to the Confederation Centre of the Arts, you will have seen their ceramic mural *Equinox* over the entrance. The life and nature of the woods and fields around them are the inspiration for their designs. From Rte. 225 at Stanchel, take Rte. 246 north and look for the studio on the left. ☎ 902/621-0316.

At **McAskill Wood Working Ltd.** you'll find handy-sized handmade wooden giftware that's easy to pack or ship home. High-quality bookends, wine servers, pen sets, clocks and lazy susans are made of bird's-eye maple. It's open all year, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, closed for an hour at noon. Look for it at 25 Beasley Ave., on the east side of downtown Charlottetown off St. Peters Rd.; ☎ 902/566-3416.

Paderno, makers of some of the world's best cookware, is a PEI company, and you can stop at the factory to see it being made. You can also buy firsts and seconds of their pots, pans and other goods in their Factory Store. We looked, bought and tried some of their product and keep going back for more. Prices are about 40% off retail and, although their company stores sell at discounted prices elsewhere on the island, the only place to buy seconds is at the factory. Their professional-chef grade products bear the Chaudier brand name and are available here as well. Their factory tour lasts 20-30 minutes and is given year-round, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm. From May to December they also have the tour on Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. On the west side of Charlottetown; from TC1 take Upton Rd. north to First St. The factory store is on the south (right) side of First St., in West Royalty Industrial Park, ☎ 902/629-2360.

North Shore

Geppetto's Workshop always brightens our day. If you want to have a good time and meet two of the nicest people on the island, come here. Doris and David Powell tend the shop and David is the maker of its contents. David's friends, beautifully hand made puppets, include Anne of Green Gables, and a Pinocchio whose nose really grows when he tells a lie. In addition to his puppets, David makes a number of wooden toys and puzzles that are fascinating. There is really too much to describe, and half the experience is hearing David tell you about these. He is enchanting. They also sell limited editions of superb animal and bird prints by their daughter, the artist Wendy Powell. From Rte. 6, between Stanley Bridge and New London, take Rte. 238 south and look for the small sign on the right just past Founds Mills, ☎ 902/886-2339, e-mail davwell@auracom.com, www.kennet.pe.ca/pages/powell.

Gaudreau Fine Woodworking is on Rte. 6, east of Cavendish at the intersection with Rte. 242. Since 1980 they have been creating fine hardwood accessories for homes and offices from the studio here. Their goods include bowls, mirrors, trays, candle holders and a variety of other items. You'll find black walnut, cherry, bird's-eye maple, and red oak. You are likely to find a demonstration of their techniques going on in the showroom, which also features the work of more than 20 potters from around the Maritimes. Open May through October; ☎ 902/963-2273.

Just past North Rustico on Rte. 6, **Rustic Dreams** is a craft shop that sells handmade quilts from around the Atlantic provinces. In addition, they carry weaving, pottery and music of the Maritimes. It's open daily, June through September; ☎ 902/963-2487.

Just writing about **Medallion Smoked Salmon** makes our mouths water. Visitors to their shop can see how seafood is smoked and sample some of the 18 different smoked fish products. They ship and are open all year. Parkers Cross Rd., off Rte. 224, Ebenezer, less than two miles from Rte. 7; ☎ 902/964-3001.

Prince Edward Preserve Company is the island's own upscale preserve maker, considered one of the best in Canada. It's in an old butter factory on the edge of the Hunter River and all of their many varieties of preserves and other products are for sale here; most are displayed for sampling, too, so you can make educated selections. They also serve breakfast, lunch and dinner in the bright café and have picnic tables for dining out doors. The shop is at the junction of Rtes 224 and 258, New Glasgow, ☎ 902/964-4304, www.preservecompany.com.

Island Farmhouse Gouda, Inc., RR9, Winsloe North, PEI C1E 1Z3, ☎ 902/368-1506, is the home and workshop of **The Cheese Lady**, who makes wonderful Gouda-style cheese. You can buy it at the farm, where you can see the operation and watch a film that shows the steps in cheesemaking. Eleven different flavors and styles are there to sample and choose among. We liked the peppercorn gouda, tangy and with a bite, and

the extra-old gouda, which has a sharp taste and the texture of an aged parmesan. Big glass windows let you see rack upon rack of aging cheeses, and they have samplings so you can choose what you like. They are open Monday through Saturday all year, 10 am to 6 pm. From Charlottetown, take Rte. 2 west a short way, then take Rte. 223 north five miles to Winsloe North, on the way to the north shore.

The Dunes Studio Gallery is a fascinating assembly of craft and art studios and display areas surrounding three dining venues, all housed in a stunning, modern glass structure on the edge of a reflecting pool. The Island Art Gallery is a multi-media collection of art in oils, water color and acrylic, photography, clay, metal and batik. The Dunes Gallery features the design and craft work of outstanding Canadian artists and craftspeople in pottery, glass, porcelain, stained glass, wood and other media. In particular, look for stained glass art by Sylvia Ridgway, Robin Bakker and John Burden. Many of their works are collector's pieces. In the studio of Peter Jansons you will find the art of utilitarian and art pottery at its pure extension, with dishes, cups, bowls and tea pots that combine function and design in exquisite form. The studio is open daily, May to October, 10 am to 6 pm. The café, lounge and dining patio are open 10 am to 10 pm from June to September. Rte. 15, Brackley Beach. ☎ 902/672-2586.

South Shore

If you are walking about Victoria, and it's a good place to do that, **Weather Sense** is a different sort of experience. Just about everything you could imagine that is related to weather is here. If it's raining, stop in and buy a few nice days. Off Main Street beyond the Victoria Village Inn next to the post office, ☎ 902/658-2993, 800/461-5525.

Pottery By The Sea has a good selection of pottery and porcelain in attractive colors and patterns, made here in their studio. They are open daily, 10 am to 6 pm. Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2653.

Chocaholics will want to stop in at **Island Chocolates Company** in Victoria. Inside the old-fashioned storefront, you can see goodies being made by hand or buy them from a big glass display case. You can also buy coffee or tea and repair to the front porch, where they have tables and chairs overlooking the main street. Open June through September, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 9 pm; Sunday, noon to 9 pm. Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2320.

Where To Stay

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

■ Charlottetown

Delta Prince Edward Hotel is large and close to the center of Charlottetown's downtown activity. Rooms are large, nicely furnished, very comfortable and have all the amenities. Services and facilities include in-room movies, same day cleaning and laundry, large indoor pool, fitness center, a masseuse, sauna and whirlpool bath. It's stylish, but very hospitable. It also has a first-rate restaurant. Special packages are available throughout the year. The hotel has fitness facilities and an indoor pool. 18 Queen St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 8B9. ☎ 800/268-1133, 902/566-2222, fax 904/566-1745, central reservations 800/268-1133, www.deltahotels.com. ($$$-$$$$)

Best Western Charlottetown, formerly MacLauchlan's Motor Inn, is a modern three story in-town motel. In addition to standard rooms and suites they also have housekeeping units available. Rooms are attractive and comfortable and there is an indoor pool, sauna, hot tub and fitness facilities. They have a restaurant and pub. Children under 18 are free. The hotel is handicapped-accessible. 238 Grafton St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1L5, ☎ 800/528-1234, 902/892-2461, fax 902/566-2979. (low $$-$$$)

Dundee Arms Inn gives you the option of a room or suite in the original 1903 Queen Anne town mansion or a more modern room in the 10-unit motel. All are nicely furnished, but the inn rooms have period furnishings and the tone of the original structure. Room rates in the Inn are slightly higher. All rates include a continental breakfast. 200 Pownal St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 3W8, ☎ 902/892-2496, fax 902/368-8532, 877/6DUNDEE, e-maildundee@isn.net, www.dundeearms.com. (low $$$)

The Inns on Great George give guests lots of reasons for choosing to stay there, particularly the location in the center of the historic district and the history of the buildings themselves. Two of the buildings are the former Pavilion and Wellington Hotels, where the Fathers of Confederation met and stayed in 1864 when the idea of Canada first took root. Today, they form two elegant inns, restored and furnished with fine 19th-century pieces, with the feel of 19th-century gentility and all of the accoutrements of the 21st century. In the Pavilion, rooms are furnished with antiques, have en suite baths, cable TV, and phones; some have whirlpools or fireplaces. The Fathers never dreamed of these luxuries. The five guest rooms of the old Wellington are equally well-appointed and share a large first floor common room. 58 Great George St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4K3, ☎ 902/892-0606, 800/361-1118, www.innsongreatgeorge.com. ($$$-$$$$)

Fitzroy Hall is close to downtown, but in a residential area, an 1872 home that has been brought back to life as an attractive B&B. Nicely decorated with period antiques, all six rooms have private baths. Rates include a full breakfast. For a romantic stay, choose the Master Suite, which has a Jacuzzi, fireplace and a balcony. The Fitzroy is in the block behind City Hall, on the corner of Fitzroy and Pownal streets. 45 Fitzroy St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1R4, ☎ 902/368-2077, fax 894-5711. ($$-$$$)

Heritage Harbour House Inn Bed & Breakfast. The four-room B&B is close to the center of town in a restored, early 20th-century home. Two of the rooms have private baths and all have color TV and phones. They serve a full breakfast to guests. A garage is available for bicycles and laundry facilities are accessible to guests. There is parking on site. The Inn is an adjoining property that was renovated to house nine rooms, each with private bath, air conditioning and phone. Some rooms have whirlpool baths, others have balconies, all have contemporary style furnishings. 9 Grafton St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1K3, ☎ 902/892-6633, 800/405-0066, fax 892-8420, www.peisland.com/heritagehouse, e-mail hhhouse@attglobal.net. $$-$$$

Fairholm Inn & Carriage House is an exquisite restoration of an 1838 historic home that played a role in Canadian confederation. The large brick structure with a double bowed front sits on spacious grounds in the center of the historic district. Eight suites, all with private bath, are furnished with period antiques, some of which are original to the home. Details include inlaid hardwood floors, stained glass, paneling and fine woodwork. The elegant parlor also serves as the breakfast room for the enticing full breakfasts served to guests. The inn is within easy walking distance to all points of interest, and on-site parking is available. 230 Prince St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/892-5022, 888/573-5022, fax 892-5060, www.fairholm.pe.ca; mailing address c/o Gordon MacPherson, Belle River PO, PEI C0A 1B0; ($$$-$$$$)

Altavista B&B is an attractive B&B with a deck overlooking the water. It has two rooms with private baths. The Luxury Suite has its own private

entry, a sitting area with TV and views of the gardens and the harbor. Canoeing is available. 2 Altavista Crescent, Charlottetown, PEI C1E 1M9, ☎ 902/894-4248, www.peisland.com/alta/vista.htm. ($$)

And Pardon My Garden is an option for people with a longer stay in mind. This single housekeeping unit has microwave, refrigerator, toaster, china, phone and TV. A 10-minute walk from downtown, the property keeps bikes for guests. The location is near Victoria Park, in the Olde Brighton section of Charlottetown. This is probably the best buy in town, and it includes a full breakfast. Open from May through October. Tony Spenceley, 8 Admiral St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 2C2, ☎ 902/566-3895, fax 566-3895, e-mail andpardonmygarden@hotpotatomail.com. ($$)

■ North Shore

Dalvay By the Sea Heritage Inn is in a grand old oceanside mansion on the north shore, now a full resort. Right on Rte. 6, it sits at the edge of the national park, with wonderful views and ready access to the shore. There are 26 guest rooms furnished with antiques and eight three-bedroom cottages. Guests have use of the tennis courts, a freshwater lake with canoes, a driving range, a nature trail and bike rentals. Room rates include breakfast and dinner in one of the finest dining rooms in the province. Open early June to early October. Box 8, Little York, PEI C0A 1P0, ☎ 902/672-2048, www.dalvaybythesea.com. $$$-$$$$

Anne Shirley Motel & Cottages has 18 motel units (15 of which are housekeeping) and three housekeeping cottages. The rooms are big and attractive with phone and TV. Facilities include barbecues, a play area for kids, and a hot tub. The beach is close by and the property has a footpath to Green Gables. Rte. 13 at Rte. 6, Cavendish, PEI C0A 1N0,☎ 902/963-2224, 800/561-4266, www.anneshirley.cc ($$-$$$)

Stanley Bridge Country Resort has a large variety of lodging, from executive, deluxe and efficiency cottages (all housekeeping), to housekeeping units in the lodge, to conventional rooms in the inn. In total, there are 26 housekeeping units and 28 rooms. Facilities include heated pool, whirlpool, playgrounds and laundromat. Golf packages are available. The resort is on Rte. 6, west of Cavendish. Box 8203, Kensington, PEI C0B 1M0, ☎ 902/886-2882, 800/361-2882. ($$-$$$)

Barachois Inn has four guest rooms in a nicely restored hip-roofed Victorian. Antique furnishings and fine art are throughout the inn. Inside a green picket fence is their Victorian Garden. A full breakfast is included with the room price. Rte. 243 Church Rd., South Rustico. Write them c/o MacDonald, Box 1022, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7M4, ☎ 902/963-2194, www.barachoisinn. com. ($$$-$$$$)

Stanhope By The Sea Resort Inn has 34 rooms in the original 1817 Inn and 86 units in the new resort, which include studios and suites. The resort, only minutes from the biggest part of Prince Edward Island National Park, is on its own road, well off the traveled highway on a peninsula that pokes out into Covehead Bay. On the grounds are a heated pool, horseshoes, tennis, volleyball, croquet. The red sand beach practically surrounds the facility, and a stairway leads down from the bluff to the shore. Rooms in the inn are furnished with antiques; the resort rooms have quality contemporary furnishings and some have whirlpool baths. The resort has three bright and appealing dining areas and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. A laundry is available for guests. The inn is open June to mid-October. On Rte. 25, Bay Shore Rd.; mail c/o Tadros, Little York PO, PEI C0A 1P0, ☎ 902/672-2047, fax 672-2951, 877/672-2047, www.peisland.com/stanhope, e-mail stanhopebeachsuites@pei.sympatico.ca. ($$-$$$$)

■ South Shore / Victoria

Strathgartney Homestead Inn is about a quarter-hour southwest of Charlottetown on TC1 in Bonshaw, close to Strathgartney Provincial Park and the head of the West River. In fact, they have their own trail to the river. In the typical, white-painted shingle farmhouse are six rooms; four have private bath. The suite has a Jacuzzi and fireplace. Continental breakfast is included. The property is a National Historic Site. Trans-Canada-1 at Bonshaw, PO Box 443, Cornwall, PEI C0A 1H0 ☎ 902/675-4711, fax 675-2090. ($-$$)

Orient Hotel has been a presence in Victoria for many decades. Newly renovated and nicely decorated, it continues to offer attractive and comfortable accommodations to travelers. Guests may unwind in the hotel's tea shop with a welcoming cup. Main Street, Victoria, PEI C0A 2G0, reservations Box 162, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7K4, ☎ 800/565-ORIENT or 902/658-2503, fax 902/658-2078, www3.pei.sympatico.ca/orient, e-mail orient@pei.sympatico.ca. ($$)

The Victoria Village Inn sits next to the theater and is in the same building as the Actor Retreat Café, a handy combination. There are four rooms; one is $65, but its bath is not en suite; the other three have private baths. Rooms are pleasant and homey, in keeping with the setting for a country weekend. Continental breakfast of breads, cereal and fruit is included, and all rooms have equipment to make coffee and tea. Off Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2483, e-mail victoriavillageinn@pei.sympatico.ca. ($$)

The Kinkora Country Inn is a good place to stop if you plan to get to the island late. They have 12 nicely appointed rooms with private bath and two suites. A homestyle breakfast is served. It is very close to the Scales Pond Community Park. From Borden-Carleton, follow TC1, then take Rte. 1A to Rte. 225 east. From there it's about nine miles to the inn. They are open all year, and reservations are necessary from November through April. Rte. 225, Box 16, Kinkora, PEI C0B 1N0, ☎ 902/887-3337, 888/270-3337, www.peisland.com/kinkora/inn.htm, e-mail bustin@pei.sympatico.ca. ($$-$$$)

■ Malpeque Bay Area

Malpeque Cove Cottages are close to the bay; the 12 housekeeping cottages are well situated for enjoying Cabot Provincial Park and the Darnley basin. The cottages have natural pine interiors and roofed patios that overlook the bay; they are equipped with microwaves and barbecues. Laundry facilities are available. Open June to mid-October. Rte. 105, Malpeque, Bryanton, Box 714, Kensington, PEI C0B 1M0, ☎ 902/836-5667, 888/283-1927, www.malpeque.ca/malpeque.html, e-mail debbie@malpeque.ca. ($$$, weekly rates available)

New Moon Farm is a different experience, a chance to stay in an old island farmhouse in the countryside close to Malpeque Bay. Rooms are homey, with single or double beds, and all share a bath. A full country breakfast is served. Cabot Beach Provincial Park is close by. From Malpeque, continue through town toward Cabot Beach Provincial Park; pass the turn to the park and look for the sign. Chip and Evelyn Trask, RR 1, Kensington, PEI C0B 1M0, ☎ 902/836-4095. ($)

■ Camping

Stanhope Campground is an attractive seaside park on the north shore. The park has a lot of services, including a laundromat. For recreation, there is supervised swimming, a playground, programs, and sports equipment loans, and hiking trails are close by. Wood fires are allowed in the kitchen shelters only. Open mid-June to early September. To get here, take Rte. 25 off Rte. 6. Stanhope, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350.

Robinsons Island Campground is on the long barrier beach that forms and protects Rustico Harbour. Formerly called Rustico Island, it's one of the most popular camping areas on the entire island; this is a hard one to get into, but one of our favorites. On the ocean side are miles of beaches for walking, swimming (supervised) or sunning. On the other side there is a red sand beach where generations of campers (including us) have dug clams for their supper. These are not serviced sites and the use of wood fires is limited to kitchen shelters and designated fire pits. This is a rare chance to camp among the dunes. Recreation here is walking, jogging on the beach and windsurfing. Robinsons Island, Cavendish, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350.

Cavendish Campground is a fully serviced park run by the federal government; it concentrates not only on preserving the natural environment, but on the enjoyment of it, too. Natural history programs are offered by the park both here and at other locations. There is supervised ocean swimming on a big sandy beach and hiking on trails close by. Campfires are limited to kitchen shelter stoves only. It is open early June to late September. Cavendish, Parks Canada, 2 Palmers Ln., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V6, ☎ 902/672-6350.

New Glasgow Highlands Camp Cabins and Camping is on Rte. 224 in New Glasgow, a quiet country area near a fishing pond. They have cabins, where you bring everything but the tent, and campsites where you bring that too. It's close to the Hunter River, which feeds into a long arm of Rustico Bay. They have a heated pool and a playground and the north shore beaches are close by. This campground has a long season, from May 1 through October. c/o Les Andrews, RR3, Hunter River, PEI C0A 1N0, ☎ 902/964-3232.

Twin Shores Camping Area. You may note that we tend to favor Provincial and National Park campgrounds. The reason is that their sites tend to be bigger and offer more privacy than most private areas. This one is an exception. They have both wooded and open sites, and tenters are welcome throughout the campground, not herded together at the edge of a field. There are more than 100 acres on Profitts Point with beaches on Darnley Bay (red sand) and on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence (white sand). There is a camp store and laundromat as well as ballfields, game room and playground. From Rte. 20 east of Malpeque, take the marked road just east of Darnley. Twin Shores, RFD#1, Kensington, PEI C0B 1M0, ☎ 902/836-4142.

Strathgartney Provincial Park is small, 12 miles south of Charlottetown and right on TC1 for easy access. The park is situated on one of the long arms of the West River, also known as the Elliot River. They have a kitchen shelter, laundromat and dumping station. There is a nature trail and swimming within five miles at Argyle Shore Provincial Park. Churchill, Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/675-7476, winter 902/859-8790.

Cabot Beach Provincial Park is on the big beautiful bay famed for its oysters; it's right on Rte. 20 and they take RVs and tents. They have supervised ocean swimming, recreation, and nature interpretive programs for campers. This bay is a paradise for kayakers. The park is at the end of Rte. 105, beyond Malpeque. Malpeque, Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/836-8945, winter 902/859-8790.

Where To Eat

DINING KEY	
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.	
$	Under $10
$$	$10-$20
$$$	Over $20

■ Charlottetown

Dundee Arms Inn has two eating places. The Hearth and Cricket Pub ($) is casual and cozy, the local roost of the upwardly mobile. The menu tends to the pub side of dining; it's open Monday through Friday, noon to 1 am; Saturday, 11:30 am to 1 am. The more formal Griffon Room ($$-$$$) emphasizes seafood but has a good selection of alternatives. Try the Morrocan salmon served with spicy Spanish ri-

sotto and tangy mango and mandarin orange salsa. 200 Pownal St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/892-2496.

The Lord Selkirk is an elegant and reliable place to dine. The menu is varied, the service smooth and the setting refined. In the evening you can dine to piano music. Reservations are suggested, and you will want to dress smartly. Prince Edward Hotel, 18 Queen St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/566-2222. ($$-$$$)

Sirenella Ristorante is a small gem with a quiet, comfortable feeling. Italian music sets the mood for the northern Italian menu, which features a nice selection of seafoods, often paired with pasta. We couldn't resist "Mussels in Love," a specialty of the house, and the huge serving was enough to share. The mussels were so fresh you could almost smell the sea, and the creamy pink sauce so good that it would be a hit on its own. Another of the chef's specialties is carpaccio of veal, cured in wine and herbs for weeks; it's like no other veal you have tasted. A favorite with Sirenella's clientele, the dish is popular in the Trentino region of northern Italy. The spaghetti with lobster (*aragosta*) is excellent and warming to the mouth. Tables are well spaced and the excellent service is knowledgeable and opinionated. Sirenella is right in the downtown area near the Confederation Centre. Make reservations, because it is popular and small. 83 Water St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/628-2271. ($-$$)

Feast Dinner Theatres has been entertaining islanders and visitors every summer since 1979. Performances are at the Rodd Charlottetown, and are upbeat and enjoyable, featuring contemporary stuff that pokes fun at just about everything. The atmosphere is casual and easygoing. Kent and Pownal streets, Charlottetown, ☎ 902/629-2321. ($$, including performance)

Cedar's Eatery has a definite Lebanese twist, but with plenty of other choices. At lunchtime, soup-and-sandwich specials include a full array of sandwiches. At dinner you'll find kibbe, grape leaves, shish taouk or one of their not-so-exotic offerings. Reservations aren't necessary. 81 University (between Fitzroy and Kent streets), Charlottetown, ☎ 902/892-7377. ($-$$)

Off Broadway Restaurant and 42nd Street Lounge has the restaurant downstairs and the lounge upstairs, with live jazz. Its prices are reasonable, the atmosphere lively and the food good. One of the menu items when we ate there was a seafood Jambalaya with shrimp, scallops, mussels and a double-smoked sausage. They also had a peppercorn Provençal chicken stuffed with Jarlsberg cheese, and a delightful baked cornmeal-crusted salmon served with a roasted vegetable relish. Lunches are served weekdays, brunch on Saturday and Sunday ($6-10), dinner nightly. 125 Sydney St., Charlottetown ☎ 902/566-4620. ($$)

Piece A Cake couldn't be better located for people going to performances at the Confederation Centre, right across the street. You can get your salmon any way you want it – seared, blackened, or poached. They also of-

fer a nice seared chicken breast with basil and chervil, served over jasmine rice, and a pecan-crusted pork loin. 119 Grafton St. (2nd floor), Charlottetown, ☎ 902/894-4585. ($$)

Old Dublin Pub serves good pub food in an atmosphere that's appropriate to its name. Fish & chips, steamed mussels, fried shrimp with Caesar dressing, smoked salmon with Irish soda bread, and chicken or shrimp Alfredo are just a few of the things on the menu, and the prices are right. 131 Sydney St., Charlottetown, ☎ 902/892-6992 ($)

■ North Shore

Dalvay By The Sea Heritage Inn & Restaurant is one of the finest restaurants on the island and probably among the top-ranked in the country. The dining room has an international reputation, featuring dishes with a contemporary flair, all prepared from the freshest local ingredients. Start with an appetizer of Malpeque oysters steamed with green onion, ginger and sesame oil, followed by lobster ravioli with saffron buerre blanc, or roasted chicken with butternut risotto, bacon and sautéed mushrooms. The menu changes frequently throughout the season. Breakfast is served 8 am to 9:30; lunch, noon to 1:30; afternoon tea, 2 pm to 4 pm; and dinner, 5:30 to 9 pm. Reservations for dinner are almost a must, as this is a very popular dining venue. Presentation approaches fine art. All the fuss over the restaurant should not overshadow the very fine lodgings of this resort hotel. Off Rte. 6, Grand Tracadie, ☎ 902/672-2048. ($$$)

CHURCH LOBSTER SUPPERS

Church lobster suppers are a real tradition in PEI, fitting for a place surrounded by the sea. Expect to pay $21 to $30 for a lobster dinner with steamed mussels and chowder. Non-lobster meals are $12-$16, and kids meals are $3.50-$10. **St. Ann's Church Lobster Suppers**, St. Ann's, ☎ 902/964-2385, is on Rte. 224 east of Stanley Bridge. It started these lobster suppers and theirs is very popular. They also serve steak, scallops, sole, or pork chops. No longer the homey little weekly event of our childhood, it's become big business, with a license for beer and wine and live entertainment. They serve from 11:30 am to 2 pm and 4 to 9 pm, from the last Monday in May to the first Saturday in October, except on Sunday. Another good choice is **New Glasgow Lobster Suppers**, ☎ 902/964-2870, in the New Glasgow recreation center on Rte. 224. They serve from 4 to 8:30 pm, early June to mid-October, but July and August are the busiest times.

Carr's Oyster Bar is just one of the reasons to stop at Stanley Bridge Wharf, adjacent to the Marine Aquarium. Baked oysters Rockefeller are

$9.95 and fried clams or oysters are $7.95. For the same price you can get fish & chips or a chicken finger dinner, and for $2 more a fried clam or fried oyster dinner. Stanley Bridge Wharf, ☎ 902/886-2716. ($)

Café on the Clyde. An attractive, bright dining room with big windows overlooking the Clyde River, the café serves up a menu that is just as attractive. Actually, this is the home of PEI Preserve Company, and at breakfast you are sure to sample their products. Salads run $6-$8; entrées, such as ravioli, fish cakes, or penne with grilled chicken and sausage are under $10. Sandwiches and wraps are also available. It is also a tea lover's delight; the tea list takes up a full page on the menu. At the junction of routes 224 and 258, New Glasgow, ☎ 902/964-4305. ($)

■ South Shore / Victoria

Landmark Café, across the street from Victoria's theater, is a good place for lunch or early dinner. Sandwiches, quiche, meat pie, lobster roll and lasagna are on the menu, along with steamed salmon with rice and scallops in garlic butter. Open from 11 am. Main St., Victoria; ☎ 902/658-2286. ($-$$)

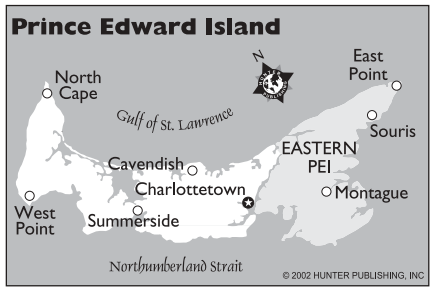
Sea Winds Restaurant sits at the end of the town wharf in Victoria, with views of the harbor from all the big windows that surround its dining room. As you might expect, they specialize in seafood, but there are alternatives for those who want something else. The restaurant is wood toned, casual, and light and airy, a good place for families. The lunch menu includes steamed mussels, fish & chips, chicken club and roast beef melt. The dinner menu offers a traditional PEI lobster supper with mussels and all the fixings for about $30. End of the Wharf, Victoria. ☎ 902/658-2200. ($-$$)

The Actors Retreat Café, in Victoria, is right next to the theater and serves lunch and dinner. If there is a show running, you might well bump into cast members here. The small dining room is open, bright and simple. Although the lunch portion of mussels with garlic was plentiful, the chicken sandwich, while delicious, was a bit light on chicken. Their bruschetta would do as a lunch on its own and the Greek salad with a bagel and smoked salmon looked enticing. Typical dinner choices are chicken stuffed with sun dried tomato and pesto, sautéed sole with chutney and grilled banana, and a vegetable stir-fry with chicken or shrimp. Off Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2483. ($-$$)

Mrs. Profitt's Tea Shop. The Orient Hotel is a period piece that really allows you to get into the mood for afternoon tea. It's a neat place to stop off for tea with scones or biscuits after a day seeing the sights of the south coast. At the Orient Hotel, Main Street, Victoria, ☎ 902/658-2503. ($)

Eastern Prince Edward Island

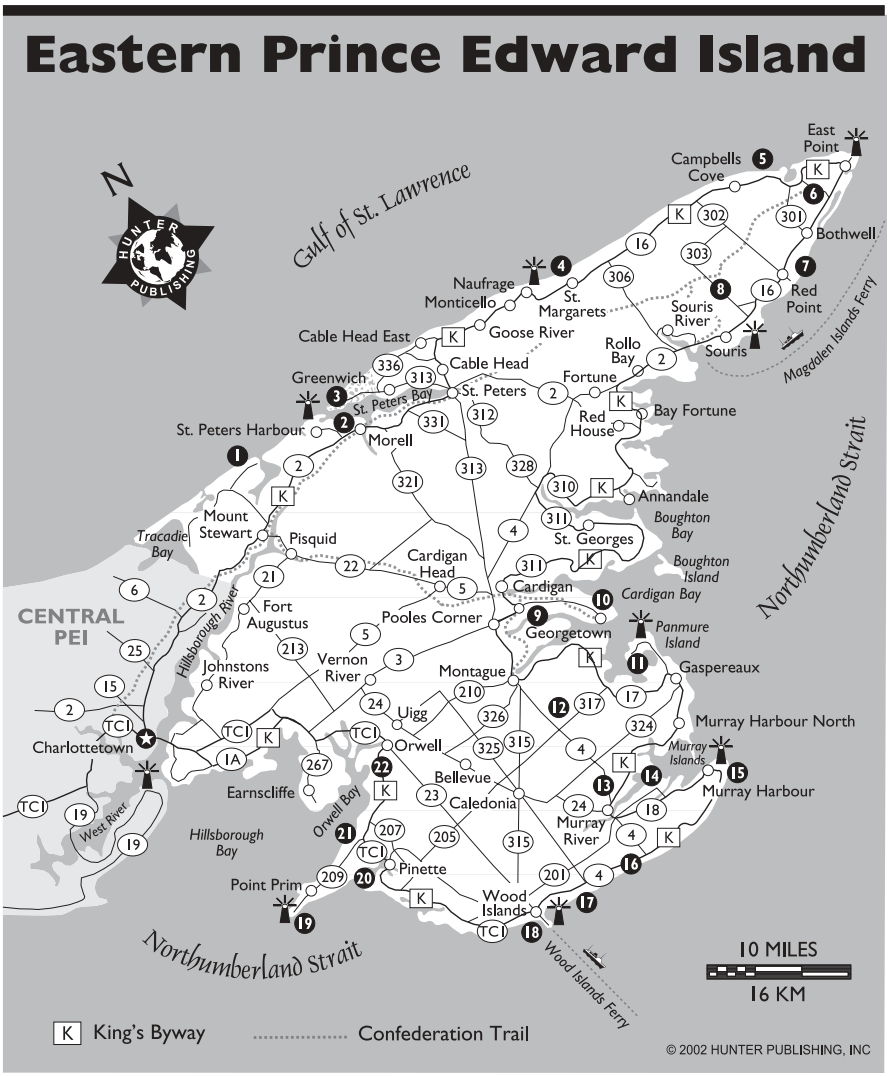
Prince Edward Island named the tourist districts on this side of the island well: **Bays and Dunes** and **Hills and Harbours**. Almost completely surrounded by water, this area is nearly an island of its own. On the north it is bounded by the **Gulf of Saint Lawrence** and on the south and east by the **Northumberland Strait**. The western boundary is pretty much defined by the **Hillsborough River**, which rises northeast of the town of Mount Stewart, close to the north shore, and flows ever wider into Charlottetown Harbor. As on the rest of the island, you'll find no big hills in this region. Farming and fishing are the predominant activities here.



Throughout the area grow thousands of acres of **potatoes**, the dark green lines of their plants running off into the distance on either side of the roads you'll drive. Along the north coast are **beaches** and **high bluffs**, while the east shore is deeply indented by **bays**, most fed by rivers that flow from the interior. A look at a map will show you **Rollo Bay**, **Boughton Bay**, **Cardigan Bay**, **St. Mary's Bay** and the big **Georgetown** and **Murray harbors**. **Wood Islands**, on the south coast, is the closest point to Nova Scotia, and regular ferry service from there provides the only remaining ferry connection between the island and the mainland, a 1¼-hour trip.

Getting Around

To reach the north shore – East Point, the ferry to the Magdalen Islands at Souris and the upper eastern shore – take **Rte. 2** north from Charlottetown. When you reach St. Peters you can choose to



1. Savage Harbour; Crowbush Cove
2. Leo F. Rossiter Anglers Park
3. Greenwich, PEI National Park
4. Bluffs at Bear Cove
5. Campbells Cove Provincial Park; North Lake Harbour
6. Elmira Railway Museum
7. Red Point Provincial Park; Basin Head Fisheries Museum
8. New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot
9. Brudenell River Provincial Park
10. Garden of the Gulf Museum
11. Panmure Island Provincial Park & Lighthouse; St. Mary's Bay
12. Buffaloland Provincial Park
13. Harvey Moore Wildlife Management Area
14. King's Castle Provincial Park
15. Cape Bear Lighthouse Museum; Log Cabin Museum
16. Rossignol Estate Winery
17. Northumberland Provincial Park
18. Wood Islands Lighthouse & Provincial Park; Wood Islands Ferry Landing
19. Point Prim Lighthouse
20. Pinette Provincial Park
21. Lord Selkirk Provincial Park
22. Sir Andrew MacPhail Homestead; Orwell Corner Historic Village

take **Rte. 16** or continue on Rte. 2 to Souris. If you choose Rte. 16, you will drive along the northern shore of the long peninsula that thrusts into the sea all the way to East Point. There, Rte. 16 turns suddenly south to Souris, from which the shore road offers a series of differing routes. These include **Rte. 310**, a small section of **Rte. 4**, **Rte. 311**, **Rte. 321**, **Rte. 3** and another segment of Rte. 4. This is part of the tourist drive designated as **The King's Byway**, symbolized on road signs with a purple crown on a white field. Routes 4 and 3 run through the center part of this region and allow a quick return to Charlottetown.

To get into the southern part of this area, take **TransCanada-1** (TC1) east. It crosses the Hillsborough River from Charlottetown, passing through Cherry Valley and Orwell before turning south along the coast. Past Belfast, **Rte. 209** goes to Point Prim and TC1 continues along the coast to Wood Islands, where you take the ferry across to Nova Scotia. **Routes 4**, **18** and **17** skirt the southern and eastern shores from Wood Islands to Montague, and are also part of The King's Byway.

Information Sources

PEI Tourist Information Centres in this area are located at **Wood Islands**, PEI C0A 1B0, ☎ 902/962-2015; at the junction of Rtes. 3 and 4, **Pooles Corner**, PEI C0A 1G0, ☎ 902/838-0670; and on Rte. 2, **Souris**, PEI C0A 2B0, ☎ 902/687-7030.

Adventures

■ On Foot

The trail for the **Head of the Hillsborough River** starts at the Confederation Trail, near the Trailside Café, in Mount Stewart. It runs along the north side of the headwaters of the Hillsborough River on an old railroad bed, relatively flat and easy to travel. Go right onto the first road for about a half-mile and turn right at the intersection. This is a paved country road that rounds the head of the river and returns west along its south side. Ignore the road that takes off to the left for Cherry Hill; from this point the road is called Cherry Hill Rd. After a few kilometers there will be a dirt road to the right, which will take you to a Ducks Unlimited habitat dike on the river, a good place for birdwatching. Return to Cherry Hill Rd. and continue to Mount Stewart's Main Street. Go right onto Main Street; in a short distance on the right there will be another rail trail. It will take you over the river and back to where you began. This walk is about eight miles.

For another walking trail in the same area, take Rte. 22 south from Mount Stewart to Rte. 21 at Pisquid, then follow Rte. 21 southwest a

short way to **Augustus**. A trail begins here that runs south through back country along the banks of Clark Brook to the town of Watervale. The trail is about four miles long, but it does not loop, so you will have to double back.

The **Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park**, is the sand dune tip of the peninsula that protects St. Peters Bay, an ecological gem. Its parabolic dune system is unique in North America. Three trails have been created here by the park staff that allow visitors access to this beautiful place. One trail is the old road that has now been closed to traffic. On the north side, a trail cuts through a scrubby fir forest to the beach on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Another trail leaves from the south side of the road and leads down through a meadow to the shore of the Bay. The main trail continues on to the point of the peninsula. The walking here is quite level, with a boardwalk crossing the lagoon behind the soaring dunes. The Visitor's Centre has nice interpretive displays on the ecology of the park. Follow signs to the park, bearing left at the head of St. Peters. Part way up the hill, Rte. 313 goes to the left; follow it to the end. The interpretive center is open from May to the end of June, 9 am to 5 pm; from July to Labor Day, 9 am to 8 pm, ☎ 902/961-2514.

The Confederation Trail is not the only rail-to-trail project on the island. At Montague on the island's eastern shore, along the north bank of the Montague River, a spur line has been made into a **walking/cycling trail**. It follows the river for a while, then cuts inland through the town of Brudenell, crossing the head of the Brudenell River and skirting the edge of Brudenell River Provincial Park. At the intersection of a side route to Cardigan, turn right and follow the trail to Georgetown on the end of Cardigan Point. This route is about 12 miles each way.

The **Harvey Moore Wildlife Management Area**, Rte. 4, Murray River, ☎ 902/838-4834, was created through the efforts of Harvey Moore, a leading Canadian conservationist, who was interested in the protection and preservation of wetlands and birds, particularly waterfowl. An extensive trail system runs through the area, where young birds can be seen early in the season. The sanctuary was a personal project of Mr. Moore, and his family still owns and manages it. You can fish for trout in one of their small ponds in July and in another in August for a small fee.

For a short walk in the woods, the **New Harmony Demonstration Woodlot** has a walking loop of just over a half-mile, through former fields that are returning to woodlands. While its beginning is mostly level, the parts in the former woodlot is more typically hummocky. You will find white spruce and a mix of oak and birch varieties, along with significant populations of upland birds. To get there, take Rte. 335 from Souris to Rte. 303. Go left (north) on Rte. 303, and the entrance to the woodlot will be on the right (east) side of the road in about one to two miles. The parking area is up the unpaved drive.

A really lovely place to walk is at **Panmure Island Provincial Park** and **Panmure Island**, at the end of it. Leave your car at the park and walk along the long causeway out to the island. You will be walking toward picturesque Panmure Lighthouse, high on its bluff over the sea. When you reach the light, climb the embankment and continue on down the seldom-traveled road, which runs down the center of the island. You might want to make side trips down to the sea from the roads on either side.

At **Brudenell River Provincial Park** there is a nice 20-station interpretive trail that wanders through a swamp area and what used to be farm and forest land. A boardwalk keeps your feet dry in the wettest portions. Look for insect-eating sundew plants, and other heath and bog plants. It is a good place to look for birds as well. Several other trails at Brudenell River Provincial Park are shown on a map that you can get at the park headquarters. To reach the park and the trail from the intersection of Rtes. 3 and 321, east of Roseneath, go right onto Rte. 321 and park at the T intersection. The trail is ahead and on the right.

At the **Sir Andrew MacPhail Homestead**, Rte. 209, off Highway 1, Orwell, ☎ 902/651-2789, are several interpretive trails through the fields and forests that surround the historic homestead of this noted 19th-century Canadian. The shortest of these will trails takes about 20 minutes, and the longest about 45.

FOR BIRDERS... Take the nature trail from the handsome old Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead into the forest to see and hear woodland birds and songbirds. Among the approximately 40 species commonly seen here are brown creepers; boreal chickadees; hermit thrushes; evening grosbeaks; several species of warblers, including the mourning warbler; five different woodpeckers, including the black-backed woodpecker; ruffed grouse; and hawks, including the northern goshawk and sharp-shinned hawk.

■ On Wheels

Cycling on the roads of the eastern section is a pleasure. With the exception of the major roads, routes 1, 2, 3, 4 and possibly 16, the county roads are in good condition, the hills moderate and the scenery bucolic. Study a map, and you can put together a loop that will use parts of the Confederation Trail and some of those three-digit back roads. We have suggested a few, but you can put your own route together easily.

One nice bike tour is in Mount Stewart; it's also described above in *On Foot* as the **Head of the Hillsborough River**. The ride is partly on the Confederation Trail and partly on country back roads. The trail portion is relatively flat, but there are some hills, especially along the Cherry Hill Rd. section. If you like your hard work early, take the trail counterclockwise.

One of the most beautiful and most popular sections of the **Confederation Trail** runs from St. Peters to Morell. The trail runs inland away from the water for most of its length, but here it runs along or just above the southern shore of St. Peters Bay. The distance from Morell to St. Peters is about six miles and the grades are easy.

Another bike ride out of **St. Peters** covers about 30 miles and a lot of beautiful territory. From St. Peters, take Rte. 16 through Cable Head. About a half-mile beyond the town, turn left until you come to Rte. 336, then turn right and continue through Cable Head East. When you get to Rte. 16, go left. You will be parallelling the coast; most of the dirt tracks on the left side of the road lead to the sea. Pass through Goose Harbor and Monticello to Naufrage, which has a beautiful little fishing harbor with a

great humpbacked wooden bridge over the harbor entrance. On the east side of the bridge is a small beach; on the west is Shipwreck Point Café, a good place to refuel yourself.

Rejoin Rte. 16 until you come to St. Margarets Church, and go left (north) on Bear Cove Rd. Eventually Bear Cove Rd. will make a right-angle turn. If you go straight ahead you will come out on top of tall bluffs overlooking the sea. Be very careful along the bluff, because the sea has eroded and undercut the edges. If you go right when the road turns, you will reach a small cove with a beach that only locals know about.

Return to Rte. 16 and retrace your tire marks to the intersection of Rte. 308, and take that route south past the next road intersection. Rte. 308 will make a sharp right. At the next turn, go straight ahead on a dirt road until you get to Rte. 309, then go left a short way to Selkirk, where you will intersect with the Confederation Trail. Follow the trail west. It will pass through almost five miles of unsettled back country before crossing Rte. 2 and returning to St. Peters.

For a cycling tour along the **eastern shore**, take Rte. 17 east by car from Montague to Gaspereaux and park in the lot at Panmure Island Provincial Park. From here, you can bike to the island over the causeway and onto the nicely paved flat road down the center of the island. Take side trips down some of the paved and unpaved roads that run to the sea. From the park to the end of the island is only about three or four miles.

On the **south coast**, park your car at Lord Selkirk Provincial Park off TC1 near Belfast. From here, bike a short way along TC1, then take Rte. 209 to the southwest. The paved road runs down the center of the peninsula, through flat countryside, to the town of Point Prim and Point Prim Lighthouse. The reward of the trip is the tall and lonely Point Prim Light, on its moody point surrounded by green grass and a low forest of scrub black spruce. A good refreshment stop is the Point Prim Chowderhouse, before you retrace your route back to the car. Round-trip distance is about 15 miles.

BICYCLING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Anne of Red Doors Restaurant and Gallery** is a restaurant, and a good one too, but they also rent bicycles and will arrange shuttle service from their location right at the head of St. Peters Bay on Rte. 2. This would be a good way to explore The Greenwich, PEI National Park at the end of the peninsula on the other side of the bay. Rentals are $15 half-day, $25 full day, and $75 for a week. They also sell kites if the kid in you can't resist the good wind that often blows on the beach. Rte. 2, St. Peters Bay, ☎ 902/961-2663, 961-3426.

■ Closer to the Savage Harbour area, **Trailside Café and Adventures** is on the Confederation Trail and will not only rent you a bike with all the trimmings, but can provide route maps and ad-

vice. They will even fix you up with a picnic lunch, shuttle service, customized tour packages and accommodations. They are open every day from May through October, 9 am to 5 pm; in July and August they stay open until 9 pm. 61 Main Street, Mount Stewart; ☎ 888/704-6595, 902/676-3130 or 902/892-7498; in winter 902/368-1202.

■ **ldalo Bike Rentals** operates from the Elmira Railway Museum at Elmira and from the Sandpiper B&B at South Lake, with hybrid mountain bikes. Rte. 16A, Souris, PEI C0A 2B0, ☎ 888/357-2189, e-mail lindagiguere@pei.sympatico.ca.

■ Bicycles are also available from **A Place To Stay Inn**, Cycle East Coastal Tours. They are open all year, offering mountain bike rentals and full-day and multi-day tours. Rates are $4 per hour, $22 a day, $85 weekly. 9 Longworth St., Box 607, Souris, PEI C0A 2B0, ☎ 902/687-4626, 800/655-STAY.

■ **Venture Out Cycle and Kayak** in Souris, on the northeast arm of the island, is a good place to know about. Souris makes a good base from which to explore the area. Bike rentals cost $5 for one hour; three hours for $12; seven hours for $20. Trailers are also reasonably priced and rentals include a helmet and routing advice. They will customize daytrips if you give them enough notice, and also encourage non-renters to stop by for advice or repairs. At the Platter House Restaurant, RR#1 in Souris, ☎ 902/687-1234, 877/473-4386, www.peisland.com/ventureout.

■ **Ricky's Bicycle Tours and Rentals**, in Montague close to Brudenell, will help you to design your own tour of eastern King's County and the routes around St. Mary's Bay, Panmure, Murray Harbour and the southeast shore. They also have guided tours for $40 a day, including bike; rentals are available for $30 per day. They are open June through October. ☎ 902/962-3085.

■ On Water

Beaches

On the East Cape, **Campbells Cove Provincial Park**, off Rte. 16 just west of North Lake Harbour, has unsupervised swimming on a long beach with sandstone bluffs on either end. **Singing Sands** beach at Basin Head Fisheries Museum, on Rte. 16 about halfway between East Point and Souris, also has unsupervised swimming, as does **Red Point Provincial Park** off Rte. 16 north of Souris. Campbells is on the north side of the peninsula and the others are on its south side. **Panmure Island Provincial Park**, at Panmure Island, near Brudenell River, has beautiful white sandy beaches with supervised ocean swimming. The tides that built this beach along an auto causeway to the island

have also made it a good spot for beachcombing. It's off Rte. 17, the King's Byway, at Gaspereaux, where you follow Rte. 347 a short distance. There is also a campground and snack bar in the park. **Northumberland Provincial Park**, at Wood Islands (☎ 902/962-2163), offers unsupervised ocean swimming on the southern part of the same coast. Another, less-known place to swim is **Tea Hill Park**, a municipal park, under a sand bluff. The beach disappears at high tide, so check the tide tables before going. They also have a canteen and picnic tables. It's off Rte. 1A, just east of Charlottetown.

Canoeing & Kayaking

As you travel this side of the island, you will cross a number of bridges spanning estuaries, many of which have places where you can easily put in a kayak or canoe. It is wise, however, to ask locally abut the tide heights, since you could find yourself with quite a slog through the mudflats on your return. In general, the best time to explore these estuaries is at the hour at either side of high tide, when they are full, but without the fast flow of water in the narrower channels.

Just off Rte. 2 along the north shore, on Rte. 22 in the town of Mount Stewart, you can canoe the upper reaches of the **Hillsborough River**. The access is by the bridges just south of the Trailside Café, where canoes are available for rental. North of the bridges it's a nice paddle into essentially unsettled countryside; if you head south, the river is a bit wider but also undisturbed.

A bit farther northeast on Rte. 2, just beyond the town of Morell, the road crosses the river at Morell Bridge, where you'll find picnic tables and kayak rentals at **Leo F. Rossiter Anglers Park,** ☎ 902/961-2709; open late June to mid-September, weekdays 10-6, weekends 10-8. The launch here is a good place to put in and explore upriver, or to go downriver to St. Peters Bay. The bay itself is a great place to explore. Those big white balls floating in the water are the supports for untold thousands of PEI's famous mussels, being grown for the tables of America and Europe. On the north shore of the bay is the southern edge of the island's newest addition to PEI National Park, the section at Greenwich.

A short distance south of East Point is the sea inlet known as **South Lake**. About 1.5 miles long, the outer side is a grassy dune with nesting birds. The entire thing is like a blue mirror dropped into a sea of gently waving grass. Farther down the coast, you can put in at Souris and travel up the Souris River.

All along the east coast, south of Souris, are myriad bays and estuaries that are ripe for canoeing. Rollo Bay, just south of Souris, connects to **Fortune Bay** and the **Fortune River**, a wild coastline. At Bridgeton is the head of the **Boughton River**, a drowned river estuary. A sand spit nearly closes the end of the river creating a relatively calm place to paddle along undisturbed shores. **Cardigan River** on the north side of Cardigan Point

also runs well inland, past the town of Cardigan along shores that have still not seen a bulldozer.

On the Georgetown side of the Cardigan peninsula is an immense watershed that would take weeks to explore. The first is the **Brudenell River**, accessible from the provincial park of the same name. Across a tapered peninsula is its neighbor, the **Montague River**. Both of these lead into **Georgetown Bay** and then into the huge **St. Marys Bay**, protected from the Atlantic by Panmure Island. Farther south, the long **Murray River** starts west of its namesake town and continues past it for miles, widening out to embrace several sizeable islands and passing a number of small inlets before arriving at the sand barrier across its mouth at Murray Harbour.

On the south coast, at Pinette on TC1, access **Pinette Harbour** from the local park. Nearby, Lord Selkirk Provincial Park is a good place to put in to access **Orwell Bay**, which runs well inland via the Vernon River, and a number of coves that cut deeply inland.

CANOE & KAYAK OUTFITTERS – GUIDED TOURS

■ **Trailside Café and Adventures**, in Mount Stewart , is a bicycle outfitter, but also does watersports rentals. The town is close to the head of the Hillsborough River, a south-flowing stream that comes within two miles of Savage Harbor on the north shore and nearly cuts the island in two parts. You can also have lunch at the café or pick one up to take with you. Canoe rental rates are about $15 per day and the friendly staff will help you get them to the Hillsborough (just barely down the street) or Morell rivers, but they do not have racks. All other equipment is available. 109 Main Street, Mount Stewart, PEI C0A 1T0, ☎ 888/704-6595, 902/676-3130 or 902/892/7498, winter 902/368-1202.

■ **Venture Out Cycle and Kayak** is nicely located along the east shore at Souris, making it a good place from which to explore the Souris River. They not only rent sea kayaks, but offer guided tours as well. Single kayak rentals are about $12 for an hour, $25 for three hours, and $40 for seven hours. Doubles and river kayaks are also available. Half-day guided tours to Colville Bay, Greenwich Park, and the Souris and Morell rivers cost $48; full-day tours to Greenwich Beach, Basin Head or Fortune River are $85. Lessons are also available. Contact them at the Platter House Restaurant, RR#1 in Souris, ☎ 902/687-1234, 877/473-4386, www.peisland.com.ventureout, e-mail ventureout@pei.sympatico.ca.

■ **Paddle PEI** has a location at Brudenell River Provincial Park, ☎ 902/652-2434, but their main operation is a full-service kayak shop at PEI National Park. They offer half- , full- and two-day trips and rent equipment as well. The canoeing and kayaking

available in the Brudenell River and Georgetown Bay are outstanding. Paddle PEI is able to handle all skill levels from beginner up. They are open June through September, 9 am to 8 pm.

Sailing

Sail PEI embarks from Cardigan Marina, in Cardigan Harbour, on board the 28-foot sailing schooner *Curlew*. The trips are about five hours long and you can take the helm, set sail or do nothing but enjoy the ride. They sail from Cardigan Marina Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 am, June to September; the cost is $50 per person. Reserve with Captain Jack MacDonald, Cardigan Marina, Cardigan ☎ 902/583-2120.

Harbor & Bay Tours

For tours on beautiful St. Peters Bay, including an explanation of all of those white basketballs lined up in the water (mussel farming) contact Captain John MacInnis of **Baywatch Boat Tours and Deep Sea Fishing**, St. Peters Bay, ☎ 902/961-2260, cell 626-5216.

With **Garry's Seal Cruises**, Fox River Rd., in Murray Harbour (☎ 902/962/2494), you'll visit the largest seal colony on the island; they say they have sightings on every trip. In the spring you may even get to see seal pups. But it's not all seals; the trip goes by Bird Island for a fascinating look at colonies of cormorants, blue heron and terns. Sightings of bald eagles are not uncommon. From mid-April to the end of May, and from mid-September to the end of October, they have one trip, at 1 pm. During June, trips are offered at 1, 3:30 and 6:30 pm. From July 1 through mid-September, they sail at 8:30 and 10:30 am and 1, 3:30 and 6:30 pm.

Cruise Manada Seal Watching Boat Tours, c/o Capt. Dan Bears, Box 641, Montague, PEI C0A 1R0, ☎ 800/986-3444 or 902/838-3444, www.peisland.com/cruise/manada.htm, operates an award-winning cruise on the Montague and Brudenell Rivers, two of the biggest in the province. Their three boats are equipped with roll-down sides that allow a full view but protect passengers from spray. The narrated cruise visits seals in the harbor, bird sites, and mussel farms and includes complimentary refreshments. The Brudenell River cruises leave from Brudenell Marina on Rte. 3 from July 1 through August 31 at 2:30 daily; Montague River cruises depart from Montague Marina on Rte. 4 at the station from May 15 to June 30 at 10 am and 2 pm daily; from July 1 through August 31 at 10 am and 1, 3:30 and 6:30 pm daily. In September and October, departures are at 10 am and 2 pm. Rates are $17 adults, $15 seniors and students, $8.50 for children ages four to 13. Reservations are strongly suggested; confirm departure times and locations when you make them.

Cardigan Sailing Charters, Box 7, Cardigan, PEI C0A 1G0, ☎ 902/583-2020, take guests on a 30-foot mahogany sailboat in beautiful Cardigan Bay, off the entrance to Georgetown Harbour, from late June to late Sep-

tember. Their nature tours leave at 10 am and return in the afternoon; the cruise includes lunch. Reservations are required. It costs $50 per person for an unforgettable experience.

Fishing

Wild Winds Deep Sea Fishing and Tuna Charters at Savage Harbour, ☎ 902/676-2024, operates 3½-hour trips from July to mid-September. They supply all equipment and take care of your catch.

In the St. Peters area, call on **MacKinnons Deep Sea Fishing,** which also supplies the bait and tackle. Check with them to see what's running. They make two trips daily, one at 8 am and the other at 1 pm. You'll find them at Morell Harbour at Red Head, ☎ 902/961-2873, cell 628-5343. They also have a lobster pound.

PEI was once famed for its bluefin tuna fishing, and we're happy to report that after a several-year absence, the tuna are back. **North Lake**, the main port for tuna fishing, is near the northeast point of the island on Rte. 16. The season is between July 1 and November 1. **Bruce's Tuna and Deep Sea Fishing By Rod and Reel**, ☎ 902/357-2638, operates two boats from North Lake for sportfishing. **Coffin's Tuna & Deep Sea Fishing** (☎ 902/687-3531, winter 902/357-2030), is located on Rte. 16A in North Lake; **MacNeill's Tuna and Deep Sea Fishing** (☎ 902/357-2454) takes out parties daily at 9 am and 1 pm from July through November, from Rte. 16A, North Lake); and **Prince Edward Island Sport Fishing Association Inc.** (☎ 902/838-3723) also sails from North Lake in search of the bluefin. **North Lake Tuna Charters Inc.** (☎ 902/357-2894) sails between July 1 and the end of August. They all supply equipment.

For freshwater fishing, try **Leo Rossiter Anglers Park** on Rte. 2 in Morell, just west of St. Peters. The Morell River is one of the best-known fishing rivers in Atlantic Canada.

At Rollo Bay, off Rte. 2 just southeast of Souris, **Rollo Bay U-Fish**, ☎ 902/687-2382, has fishing on their own pond, where licenses are not required. The fees depend on whether you choose catch-and-release or catch-and-keep. Their pools contain rainbows and speckled trout; they will provide the equipment and bait or you can bring your own.

At the head of the Cardigan River, off Rte. 5, is freshwater fishing at **Cardigan U-Fish**, ☎ 902/583-2952, at Cardigan Head. A license is not required, and they will provide all the equipment.

Freshwater fishing in a private pond is available at **Ben's Lake**, Rte. 24 at Ben's Lake Campground, Bellevue, ☎ 902/838-2706. Ben's is a good place to practice catch-and-release for trout. Or, for a fee, you can take the fish home for dinner. It's open all year. Fishing licenses are not required.

■ On Snow

Skiing

The influence of the Atlantic Ocean brings not only snow, but ice and even melting temperatures in winter. Snow cover for skiing is, therefore, very unpredictable. But, if there is snow, **Brudenell River Provincial Park**, in Montague (☎ 902/652-8966, winter 902/652-2356), has well-groomed trails that travel through the woods in a lovely shore-side setting. The park is off Rte. 3, between Georgetown and Roseneath, and has a resort and dining room adjacent.

■ On Horseback

Lakeside Trail Rides, on the north coast in West St. Peters, is a small, family-run farm in the countryside close to Crowbush Cove Golf Course, east of Mount Stewart. They operate June through September, guiding trail rides through fields and woods to a secluded beach. The woods section takes 20 minutes and they spend about 10 minutes on the beach. Their rates are $10 per person for a one-hour ride; there's a 13-person maximum. From Rte. 2, beyond St. Andrews, take McAdam Rd. to the left. When the road turns sharply right, the farm will be on the left. Open from mid-June to mid-September, 7 am to 9 pm; ☎ 902/961-2076.

Close to Brudenell River Provincial Park in Roseneath, **Brudenell Trail Rides**, ☎ 902/652-2396 (902/838-3713 in winter), has guided hour-long rides along the beach of the Brudenell River estuary, every day from June to the end of September. These rides are $15; they also offer a half-hour ride for $10 and sunset rides for $18.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

■ Local History

Basin Head Fisheries Museum, Rte. 16, Basin Head, ☎ 902/357-7233, is just east of Souris. Inshore fishing long played an important role in the economy of the island, and here you can learn about the lives of those who engaged in it. Small buildings exhibit gear, boats, photographs and other artifacts. Dioramas illustrate the fishing methods, and they have programs on coastal ecology. A boardwalk leads to a white sand beach. Open daily in July and August, 10 am to 7 pm; in the spring and fall, hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm.

■ Wildlife Watching

Harbor seals summer in the broad estuaries, especially those of the Brudenell and Murray rivers, on the eastern shore. Seal-watch trips go out of Murray River and Montague. **Captain Garry's Seal and Bird Watching Cruises**, ☎ 902/962-2494 or 902/962-3846, operates two boats out of Murray River to some of the surest seal-watching territory around. Early in the season you may see seal pups. Garry's boats also go to Bird Island, where cormorants, blue herons and terns are common. They sail five times a day from the Murray River Dock; reservations are not required.

Cruise Manada Seal Watching Boat Tours in Montague, ☎ 800/986-3444 or 902/838-3444, offers cruises on the Montague and Brudenell Rivers.

Seals winter on the ice floes off the Magdalen Islands, where they pup in late February. It's one of the coldest venues for wildlife-watching, but the experience of seeing baby harp seals born is one you'll never forget. Tours can be arranged through **Atlantic Marine Adventure Tours**, ☎ 506/459-7325. Trips last five days (one out and one back, plus two extra days in case of bad weather), and the cost is about $1,300, including boat travel, accommodations, and several meals. You might also consider a package tour with an international nature vacation company, such as **Natural Habitat**, ☎ 800/543-8917, which offers five-day trips that include hotel accommodations, transportation from Halifax, and other extras, for $1,700.

You wouldn't expect to find them here on an island in Canada, but at **Buffaloland** there is a herd of **American bison**. The park has a 100-acre fenced area with a boardwalk to a platform where you can watch the buffalo and whitetailed deer browse. There is no admission fee and they are open all year. In Montague, north of Murray River on Rte. 4, ☎ 902/652-2356.

HERON HAUNTS: The largest great blue heron colonies in North America are found in Eastern Prince Edward Island. Anywhere along the Souris Causeway will offer good viewing of the herons on the mud flats and in the salt marsh. The best time to see them is in August. Canada geese, brant, and ospreys are common here as well.

■ Concerts & Ceilidhs

Every Sunday in the summer **Trailside Café** has a Gospel Brunch; on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights they host live blues, celtic and similar music programs. These programs feature people from the island and from the Maritimes, such as Scott Parsons, Alan Rankin and other rising artists. You'll enjoy good talent in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. 109 Main St., Mount Stewart; ☎ 902/676-3130, 800/704-6595.

Kaylee Hall (an updated spelling of Ceilidh, perhaps?), at Pooles Corner, Rte. 3, in Roseneath, , ☎ 902/838-4399, has a regularly scheduled series of dances every Saturday night from late June through August. Dances start at 10 pm and admission is about $6. The hall is a non-smoking venue, and local bands are featured. Other ceilidhs can be found at the **Eastern Kings Community Centre**, Wednesdays at 8 pm, Munns Rd. (on Rte. 301 between Lakeville and Bothwell), ☎ 902/357-2046, 357-2177; **Monticello Log Hall**, Sundays at 7:30 pm, Rte. 16, Monticello, ☎ 902/687-2791, 628-1254; **Morell Legion**, Friday nights 9 pm, Queen Elizabeth Dr., Morell, ☎ 902/962-2110.

Sightseeing

■ Museums & Historic Sites

Orwell Corner Historic Village is an actual little town that gradually died away about a century ago and has been restored to its 1895 appearance. The streets were never paved, the storefronts never modernized, and the result is a *Brigadoon* feeling, as if you'd been dropped into a different time. The tiny general store with an old-time post office, a dressmaker's shop, a farmhouse, the old village church, and the old school, cluster at the crossroads of two rutted paths that were once the main road. In the kitchen of the farmhouse there's a flip-top bak-

ing table that makes us wonder if we really do have all the modern conveniences today. People in the barns and workshops will discuss the old farming techniques and you can learn about village social life at a real ceilidh every Wednesday evening during the summer. Cookies and scones are served in the Community House in the morning and sandwiches are served from 11 am to 4 pm. Or you can order a picnic in a wicker basket to eat on the grounds. They are open from mid-May to late October; hours vary, so call or check their Web site for current times. Admission is $4 for adults; free for children 12 and under. The village is located just of TC1 in Orwell, midway between Charlottetown and Wood Islands; mailing address is RR#2, Vernon, PEI C0A 2E0, ☎ 902/651-8510 in summer, 902/368-6600 in winter, www.orwellcorner.isn.net.

Sir Andrew MacPhail Homestead in Orwell has many items related to Sir Andrew's fascinating life, including letters exchanged with some of the leading figures of his time. Throughout the summer from the beginning of July to the end of August there are special events Monday through Thursday. The nature trails on the property are open year-round. Rte. 209, off Highway TC1, Orwell, ☎ 902/651-2789. www.isn.net/~dhunter/macphailfoundation.

DID YOU KNOW? Sir Andrew was one of those bigger-than-life men of the 19th century: medical doctor, magazine editor, professor and writer on public policy. Among his avocations was scientific investigation of agriculture to improve farm production.

Elmira Railway Museum, on Rte. 16A (☎ 902/357-7234), recalls the days when Elmira, on the eastern tip of the Island, was the eastern terminus of the Prince Edward Island Railway, with a big passenger station, freight house, coal barn stables and numerous outbuildings. Upon the railroad's completion in 1912, it was a vital economic link with the rest of the island colony and with the rest of Canada. Highway improvements in the 1950s and '60s led to the end of passenger service in 1969 and the end of freight service in 1972. Today, the station (which had one waiting room for men and another for women) and the stationmaster's office are restored and offer a glimpse into the heyday of the island railway system. A nice collection of railroad memorabilia includes photographs of most of the former stations on the railroad's routes. A new building is under construction to house a model railroad display. The museum grounds are the eastern terminus for PEI's Confederation Trail, the province's link in the TransCanada Trail, a rails-to-trails system that will eventually cross the continent.

DID YOU KNOW? At its height in the 1920s, the Prince Edward Island Railway had about 250 miles of track and 121 railway stations. Authorized by the government of the island in 1871, the rail company had grossly overspent its budgeted construction cost by 1873. The line's $3.8 million debt led the almost-bankrupt government of the colony to seek aid from Canada, which led to Prince Edward Island giving up its status as a separate British colony and becoming a part of Canada.

The Montague River feeds into Georgetown Harbour, passing by the town of Montague, home to **Garden of the Gulf Museum**. The 19th-century sandstone building that houses the museum is interesting in itself, with an arched entry porch, arched windows and a steep gabled roof. Inside it houses a collection of items from the history of the area including a medical display, items illustrating life here at the beginning of the 20th century and, on the second floor, an exhibit on shipbuilding and locally manufactured ships. Open early June to the end of September, Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, $3 adults, children under 12 free. 2 Main Street South, Montague, ☎ 902/838-2467, www.peisland.com/montague/a-museum.htm.

We really like the **Log Cabin Museum** on Rte. 18 in Murray Harbour, ☎ 902/962-2201. It's a private museum set up in a rambling log and wooden structure, the personal quest and love of Preston Robertson. Preston's goal is to preserve the life and times of his PEI friends and relatives. In the process he has created an astounding collection of artifacts from everyday life in the province from the 19th through the 20th century. Not only is the variety of items enormous, but each type of item – from fans to phonographs – is represented by a number of different examples. The collections include glassware, china, kitchenware, stoves, furniture, clothing, books, posters, radios, and just about anything you can imagine. Label are informative, but Preston will go along with you and talk about the roles that some of these things played in the everyday life of his neighbors. If you enjoy old stuff and a good storyteller, stop here.

At Murray Head, east of Murray Harbour on Rte. 18, you'll see signs to Cape Bear and the **Cape Bear Lighthouse Museum** (☎ 902/962-2917). The three-story wooden lighthouse was erected in 1881 and has been in use ever since. There is a small museum at the lighthouse, which includes a replica of the radio room and a recording of the fateful *Titanic* signal; the staff provides tours of the light. In 1947, the lighthouse was moved back to the location of the old radio building to keep the light from tumbling into the sea. It is open daily June through September.

DID YOU KNOW? One of the first Marconi radio receiving stations was built here in 1905; it had a pole tower that was 165 feet tall. It was at this spot that the SOS call from the *Titanic* was first heard by radioman Thomas Bartlett and spread to the world. The radio station was dismantled in the 1920s and the building was moved to Gurnsey Cove, where it was converted into a private home.

■ Lighthouses

East Point Lighthouse is literally on the most easterly point of the island. It is here that the tides and currents of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and the Northumberland Strait collide, and with such force that they are tearing away at the island, so the light has had to be moved back. Be sure to look at the shoreline. There are a few items of historical interest in the base of the light; tours of the lighthouse are available at a charge of $2.50 per person or $6 for a family from mid-June to the end of August. Seashell crafts and other items are sold at the East Point Lighthouse Craftshop. It is off Rte. 16 at the tip of the island; ☎ 902/357-2106.

Panmure Island Lighthouse, built in 1853, is one of the most photographed in the province and you are likely to see it pictured on travel posters. It's at the end of a long beach-lined causeway and you can't miss it. We think the best views are from the beach. Park and walk up the beach and around the base, but try to time it for low tide (and lunch time, since it's a perfect picnic spot). Tours to the top of the light are available and if you ask they will let you make a rubbing of the brass plaques on the tower. You get there from Gaspereaux (Rte. 17) via Rte. 347; ☎ 902/838-3568.

GETTING THE LEAD OUT

Visitors to PEI's lighthouses in recent years have been mystified by fences around them that prevent anyone from approaching anything but the front door. The reason for these is lead paint, which was heavily used in the preservation of the structures. While some have been closed, others remain open with restricted access. They will affect your photo angles, but you can usually step back or find a convenient bush to hide the fences and keep them from ruining your picture.

Wood Islands Lighthouse and Interpretive Centre. Another of the island's many lights, this one guards the approach to Wood Islands where the important ferry between Nova Scotia and PEI arrives. You can climb

to the top for its 360-degree view of the island and the Northumberland Strait. Tours are available; ☎ 902/962-3110.

The **Point Prim Lighthouse** is way out on the end of the slender peninsula of Point Prim on the southwest shore. To get here from Charlottetown, take TC1 east to Eldon, where you will pick up Rte. 209 through the town of Point Prim to the light at the end. The light is a tall, white-painted brick structure standing high above the crashing surf. Around it is a small field of green grass surrounded by a forest of black wind- stunted fir trees and the blue gray of the sea. Somehow this setting best symbolizes the puny effort of mankind to thwart the power of the sea. The light itself is not open, but the sight is well worth the effort to get there. A good snack bar, the Point Prim Chowderhouse, is close by beyond the fringe of trees (see *Where to Stay & Eat*, page 299).

CAUTION: Be careful here, because the sea has eroded the cliffs severely and it now threatens the light itself.

■ Crafts, Food & Shopping

Rossignol Estate Winery, on the southeast coast on Rte. 4 between Little Sands and High Bank, has been making and selling table and fruit wines since 1995 from their attractive farm overlooking the Northumberland Strait. They offer visitors tastings of their wines, which you can buy on site. They also have an attractive gift shop, which carries antiques, folk arts and crafts; the shop is open June through October, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 am; Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. It's on the south side of Rte. 4 about five miles (9km) east of the Wood Islands Ferry, ☎ 902/962-4193.

Cardigan Crafts and Olde Station Tea Room, Cardigan, ☎ 902/538-2930, is an attractive little shop in the former railway station. It has a nice selection of wood, fiber and pottery crafts made by islanders. Light meals are available in the tea shop. Open June through October Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

In Souris, **Naturally Yours** specializes in dried flowers and things made from them. They also carry herbs, landscape and marine oil paintings and antiques; ☎ 902/687-2571.

Wooly Wares is in nearby Montague. This is a sheep farm where you can see the live sheep, visit their craft studio and watch their demonstrations. If you arrive at the right time, you can join in a feltmaking workshop, a fascinating process. 1577 Valleyfield Rd., Montague, ☎ 902/838-4821.

On TC1 in the vicinity of Pownal, you'll pass **Happy Red's Folk Arts**, ☎ 902/628-3846, in a bright red 1903 restored railroad station. They have original folk art furniture – shelves, coffee tables, and wine racks – all made from old used wooden lobster traps. Sounds weird, but they are quite attractive. The station also has a photo history of the PEI railway. The gregarious owners are as interesting as the shop's crafts.

Where To Stay

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

The **Trailside Inn** is part of a multifaceted dream of people who have a deep love for the out-of-doors and for PEI. Take the "trailside" literally; the inn and all its associated businesses are right alongside the Confederation Trail. There are four very attractive rooms with queen, double or twin beds on the second floor over the café. All have a private entrance and a bath with either a whirlpool tub or good old deep claw-foot tub. Special packages are available for sports equipment and meals. The associated café serves lunch and dinner (and has music programs). You can rent canoes and bikes; shuttle services and routing information are also available. The inn is attractive and comfortable, the café is bright and serves good food (see *Where To Eat*, page ###), the equipment is top quality and the owner and staff are outgoing and helpful. It's off Rte. 2, on Rte. 22 toward Cardigan. 109 Main Street, Mount Stewart, ☎ 902/676-3130, 888/704-6595. $$

TIP: At the airport and at the Gateway Centre at the end of the Confederation Bridge are computerized vacancy lists that cover more than three-quarters of the lodging on the island. Toll-free lines are also available to allow you to make reservations.

St. Peters Bay is a large beautiful inlet on the north shore, directly alongside Rte. 2, easily accessible from Charlottetown. Here you'll find the lovely **Inn at St. Peters** sitting right above the bay. Although new, it incorporates a lot of the architectural elements of old-time PEI, such as a big wrap-around porch and nice Victorian detail. Walk down to the water for a fine view or to see the oyster farm in the middle of the bay. Innkeepers Michael and Karen Davey are charming hosts who have reached that fine point of hospitality where guests feel welcome and pampered, but are allowed space enough to relax. The rooms are big and beautifully appointed with fine furnishings, VCRs, phones, and satellite TV; many have fireplaces. Greenwich Rd., RR#1, St. Peters Bay, PEI COA 2A0, ☎ 902/961-2135, fax 961-2238, 800/818-0925, www.innatstpeters.pe.ca. ($$$-$$$$)

Just south of East Point in South Lake is **Arrowhead Lodge**, a new B&B-type lodging in one of the most beautiful seaview settings on the island. South Lake's long inlet is protected on its outer side by a grass-covered dune barrier; the B&B sits looking down upon it over a sea of waving grass. The contemporary architecture fits the setting, and the handmade furnishings and appointments are first-rate. A full breakfast is served in a room with a view over the inlet and dunes. Kayaks and bicycles are available to guests. We have to tell you that this lodge is not licensed by the province nor rated by Canada Select, apparently as a matter of choice by the owners. Contact them at RR#1, South Lake, PEI C0A 1K0, ☎ 902/357-2482, 877/357-6888, www.peisland.com/arrowhead, e-mail arrow@auracom.com. ($$$-$$$$)

The setting for **Needles and Haystacks B&B** is a 19th-century farmhouse in the country, overlooking green meadows. They have two rooms with double beds and private baths, and several other rooms that can be used as a suite or individually but which share a bath. A hot tub is available, as are bikes and cross country skis. They serve a full breakfast. From St. Peters, take Rte. 2 east to Rte. 4, follow it south to Albion Cross, then turn right onto Rte. 327. The mailing address is RR#2, St. Peters Bay, PEI C0A 2A0, ☎ 902/583-2928, 800/563-2928, fax 583-3160, www.peionline.com/bd/needles, e-mail ffoster@auracom.com. $$-$$$

The Inn at Bay Fortune is a class act, the kind of place you want to settle into for a while. All of the rooms have natural wood floors, fine furniture and nice details, including cassette players, hair dryers and full tiled baths. The rooms sit around a courtyard, except for two that are in a tower. At the top of the tower is a common room for guests with a broad view out over the countryside and the water. Built by the playwright Elmer Harris (who wrote *Johnny Belinda*), it was once the home of ac-

tress Colleen Dewhurst and has become one of the leading small inns in Canada. The dining room is outstanding (see *Where To Eat*, page 297). ☎ 902/687-3745 in summer, fax 902/687-3540, off-season 860/296-1348, www.innatbayfortune. com. ($$$-$$$$)

The **Matthew House Inn** is within an easy walk of the Magdalen Islands Ferry, even if you are carrying luggage. The historic house has been meticulously restored and converted into a charming inn without sacrificing any of its elegance or grandeur. Rooms all have private bath and the common rooms are stunning. It is consistently rated one of the best in the province, and rightly. Thoroughly hospitable and friendly hosts have lots of material and maps on where to fish, bicycle, canoe and hike. Box 151, Souris, PEI C0A 2B0, ☎ 902/687-3461. ($$$)

Roseneath Bed and Breakfast is close to Brudenell River Provincial Park, which protects a large part of the northern shore of the river. The lovingly restored home was built by a mill owner in 1868 and has been occupied by the present owners' family since 1920. Dr. Edgar and Brenda DeWar pride themselves on pampering guests, unobtrusively, with big country breakfasts, rooms furnished in family antiques, and art they have collected in their foreign travels. There's plenty to do here, including fishing in the nearby Brudenell River or even playing their old pump organ. It is open from June through September, the balance of the year by reservation. Roseneath is off Rte. 4 between Pooles Corner and Montague. Mailing address: RR#6, Cardigan, PEI C0A 1G0, ☎ 902/838-4590, reservations 800/823-8933, www.bestinns.net/canada/pei/roseneath.html, e-mail rosebb@isn.net. ($$-$$$)

Rodd Brudenell River Resort is big and modern, featuring a number of options, from hotel guest rooms and suites to their Echelon Gold Cottages and more budget-conscious Country Cabins. As with all Rodd properties, this one is beautifully maintained, and rooms are furnished with comfortable and attractive high-quality furniture and accessories. Rooms in the hotel all overlook either the river or the Brudenell River Golf Course. The Country Cabins are along the banks of the river; each has two double beds, full sized bath and patio, and 14 of them have kitchenettes. In addition to the lodging and dining, the resort is noted for the par 72, 6,591-yard Brudenell River Golf Course, the par 72, 7,284-yard Dundarave Golf Course, and the largest golf academy in Canada. The river itself provides more recreational activity. Rte. 3, PO Box 67, Cardigan, PEI C0A 1G0, ☎ 902/652-2332, 800/565-7633, fax 652-2886; www.rodd-hotels.ca. ($$-$$$$)

Lakeview Too, B&B is a new facility built on the edge of a small fishing lake stocked with brook trout. They have three rooms, all with private

bath and one with a whirlpool. Rooms also have satellite TV and laundry, and kitchen facilities are available. The rooms are small and fairly tight, but guests can use the large and comfortable living room. A canoe is available for guests to use on the pond. Their season is May through October. RR#3, Montague, ☎ 902/838-4408. ($$)

Forest and Stream Cottages are some of the most attractive cottages we've been in, and at very reasonably prices. Fully insulated and all electric, they have kitchenettes, with a grill and picnic table outside. There are hiking trails on the property and the lakeside is a good place for bird viewing. They are open May through October. Murray Harbour, PEI C0A 1V0, ☎ 902/962-3537, 800/227-9943. ($-$$)

■ Camping

Campbells Cove Provincial Park, a 23-acre campground near the northeast point of the island, is off Rte. 16 on the Northumberland Strait. They have kitchen shelters, fireplaces and a dumping station. The park is on an unsupervised beach. Campbells Cove, Parks Division East, Box 370, Montague, PEI C0A 1R0, ☎ 902/357-2067, winter 902/652-2356.

Red Point Provincial Park is a small but attractive campground on the Northumberland Strait side of the northeast peninsula, a few miles north of Souris. They are able to handle both large RVs and tents and have kitchen shelters, fireplaces, and a dumping station. They also have a supervised beach and playground. Red Point, Parks Division East, Box 370, Montague, PEI C0A 1R0, ☎ 902/357-2463, winter 902/652-2356.

Brudenell River Provincial Park in Roseneath is a large campground with lots of facilities and services. They can accommodate both RVs and tents. The park sits along the beautiful Brudenell River, and recreational opportunities are outstanding. There is a championship 18-hole golf course here as well as horseshoes, tennis, lawn bowling, canoeing, kayaking, and horseback riding. They also have a hotel with a fully licensed dining room. Parks Division East, Box 370, Montague, PEI C0A 1R0, ☎ 902/652-8966, winter 902/652-2356, off Rte. 3 between Georgetown and Roseneath.

Seal Cove Campground and Golf Course has a half-mile of private beach, a nine-hole, par 30 golf course and facilities such as showers, laundromat, dumping station and propane. They also have a dining room, which serves all three meals and offers carry-out service. Sites are both wooded and open, with many pull-throughs. Off Rte. 17 in Murray Harbour North (on the north side of the bay south of Gaspereaux, *not* in the town of Murray River), RR#4, Montague, PEI C0A 1R0, ☎ 902/962-2745.

Where To Eat

DINING KEY
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.
$ . . . . . Under $10
$$ . . . . . $10-$20
$$$. . . . . Over $20

The **Inn at St. Peters** has a beautiful dining room where guests are served breakfast; in the evening, chef Gregory Aitken produces memorable dining with an innovative, upscale menu that changes often and offers a wide variety of choices. Preparations are complex and, in our experience, brilliant: chicken stuffed with a duxelle of oyster mushrooms and prunes, with wild rice and a roasted beet sherry sauce; or pesto-crusted rack of lamb with caramelized onion and vermouth lentil broth. Specials might include chicken breast stuffed with roasted peppers, spinach and camembert; or a seafood linguine with lobster, scallops and haddock in an herb cream sauce with mussels. The lunch menu includes mussels, chowders, sandwiches and pasta dishes. We liked the tomato and zucchini fritatta and the smoked scallop ravioli. The attractive, modern, high-ceilinged dining room overlooks the bay through big windows, creating a sense of intimacy with its surroundings. High windows admit copious light, and the walls are hung with the private art collection of the innkeepers, who have exquisite taste. Greenwich Rd., RR#1, St. Peters Bay, PEI COA 2A0, ☎ 902/961-2135, fax 961-2238, 800/818-0925, www.innatstpeters.pe.ca. ($$-$$$)

The restaurant at **The Inn at Bay Fortune** is as outstanding as the accommodations, with a sophisticated menu firmly based in local ingredients. We are not alone in rating it as one of the best in the Maritimes, with its constantly changing menu and a bright, elegant dining room. On Rte. 310, just off Rte. 2, Bay Fortune, PEI C0A 2B0, ☎ 902/687-3745 in summer, fax 902/687-3540, off-season 860/296-1348, www.innatbayfortune.com. ($$-$$$)

Trailside Café at Mount Stewart is a good stop for lunch or dinner, especially if you are hiking, cycling or paddling the headwaters of the Hillsborough River or following the Confederation Trail. The lunch menu includes full entrées and a good selection of sandwiches (which are available for take-out so you can enjoy them on the trail). A big bowl of New England clam chowder or oyster stew highlights lunch, and at dinner they offer appetite-whetting choices such as scallops poached in wine and butter, baked chicken with cranberry, or salmon pie. 6244 Main Street, Mount Stewart, ☎ 902/676-3130, 888/704-6595, www.peisland.com/trailside, e-mail dbdeacon@isn.net. ($-$$)

Anne of Red Doors Restaurant and Gallery is a good choice for a less formal place to eat in St. Peters. It is hard to miss, its name an island play on words for the bright red doors of the old firehouse. Operated by savvy western Canadian immigrants, they offer a nice selection of burgers, sandwiches and chowder at lunch (we liked the Big Bay Battered Mussel Platter). In the evening, try Crêpes St. Pierre-Down By the Bay (a pair of chicken and broccoli or garden vegetable crêpes), seafood linguine, charbroiled steaks or fettucine Alfredo. Everything is prepared after you order it. The casual dining room has big windows with views of the bay. They also have a craft shop with the work of local artists and craftspersons, and they sell kites. Bike rentals and shuttle services are available. Rte. 2, St. Peters Bay, ☎ 902/961-2663 or 961-3426 ($-$$)

Rick's Fish 'N Chips serves a wide variety of seafood, fries and rings, all fried, of course. They also have pizza, chicken fingers, wings, burgers, dogs and salads. Open Sunday through Thursday, 11 am to 10 pm; Friday and Saturday they close at 11 pm. Rte. 2 east of St. Peters; no phone. ($-$$)

St. Margaret's Lobster Suppers is one of *the* places to go on PEI in the evening. At a lobster supper you will meet locals along with the tourists, since they are community events. Dinner ($22.95) includes a cup of Father Bud's seafood chowder, potato salad, several salads, a home-baked dessert and beverage. The lobster salad dinner gives you all of the same side dishes ($18.95), as does the ham dinner ($13.95). A children's equivalent runs from $13.95 for a half lobster to ham on a bun for $4.95. Beer and wine are available. They are open every day, 4 to 9 pm, from early June to early October. Rte. 16, in St. Margarets, just east of St. Peters; ☎ 902/687-3105.

Shipwreck Point Café overlooks a colorful fishing village and serves good food at inexpensive prices. A burger is $2.25, fishburger $3.25 and lobster burger $5.95. A scallop platter will cost $9.95 and a two-piece fish & chips is $5.95. Off Rte. 16, Naufrage Harbour; ☎ 902/687-1293.

Windows on the Water Café is in an historic home close to the river, with a small, intimate, dining room indoors and another less formal one on the breezy wrap-around porch, shaded by a huge tree. The atmosphere is relaxed county and the service friendly. The menu listing has some interesting choices, for example, grilled halibut with a creamy cucumber dill sauce, chicken breast stuffed with roasted peppers, spinach and camembert or Atlantic seafood linguine. Reservations are a good idea. 106 Sackville St., Montague; ☎ 902/838-2080. ($$)

Kandies Take Out is a good choice if you want to grab lunch before you head out to Panmure Island. They serve breakfast and a good selection of sandwiches (plain burger $1.78, steak burger $2.97) and side orders such as the usual fries and rings as well as scallops, fish, clam strips and fried

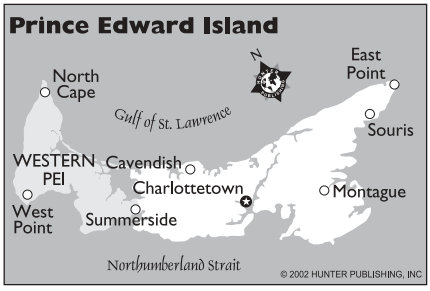
chicken ($2.97-4.25). While you wait, look at their photo album of sunset pictures over the harbor. Graham's Pond, Gaspereaux, ☎ 902/962-2120.

Point Prim Chowder House is on the tip of Point Prim, just around the cove from the lighthouse. The setting of this snack bar/restaurant is superb – on the end of a long spit of land sticking out into the Northumberland Strait. The food is straightforward: sandwiches, chowders, soups, salads and seafood, which you can eat inside or out on the edge of the sea. On Tuesday evenings from the end of June to mid-September, starting at 6:15, they host a **Dinner Ceilidh** with a seafood appetizer, seafood chowder (or ham and cheese salad plate), cheese biscuits, dessert and beverage. The highlight of the evening is the fiddling by local musician Billy MacInnis. Reservations are definitely required. Rte. 209, Point Prim, ☎ 902/659-2023. ($$)

The **Sir Andrew MacPhail Homestead** is a wonderful old home, and their dining room is a nice place to meet a few Scottish dishes if you don't already know them. They have haggis, bannocks, and fish, and serve an heirloom bean grown on the farm. The daily menu also includes a roast of some variety, a poultry dish and a vegetarian entrée. Tables are set with nice china on linen tablecloths and the room is lit at night by oil lamps. Dining here is a great experience. They serve June through September, Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm; and Wednesday through Sunday, 5 to 8 pm. Rte. 209, off Highway 1, Orwell, PEI ☎ 902/651-2789. ($$)

Western Prince Edward Island

The least-known section of Prince Edward Island is the part west of **Summerside** and the narrow strip of land – it's less than five miles wide – that connects the westernmost county to the rest of the island. Separating Malpeque Bay from Bedeque Bay, this land link is all that keeps Prince County from being an island of its own.



Tourism PEI has divided this area into two districts, called **"Ship to Shore"** and **"Sunsets and Seascapes,"** and they have designated a scenic route called the **Lady Slipper Drive** that pretty much follows the coastline of this region. It's a nice route, with frequent glimpses of the sea and plenty of short side roads that lead to the water.

1. College of Piping Museum & Shop; Summerside Lighthouse; Eptek National Exhibition Centre; Wyatt Centre; Jubilee Theatre; Spinnaker's Landing; PEI Sports Hall of Fame; Lefurgey Cultural Centre; International Fox Museum & Hall of Fame
2. Linkletter Provincial Park
3. Acadian Museum of Prince Edward Island
4. Union Corner Provincial Park; Union Corner Schoolhouse
5. La Village de l'Acadie; Our Lady of Mont-Carmel Church
6. Bottle Houses
7. Cedar Dunes Provincial Park; West Point Lighthouse
8. Prince Edward Island Potato Museum
9. Mill River and Bloomfield Provincial Parks
10. Irish Moss Interpretive Centre
11. Zero Marker for Confederate Trail
12. Elephant Rock
13. North Cape Lighthouse; Atlantic Wind Test Site; Marine Aquarium
14. Fish Haven Provincial Park
15. Jacques Cartier Provincial Park
16. Alberton Museum
17. Green Park Provincial Park; Lennox Island
18. Brittania Hall Theatre; Ellerslie Shellfish Museum
19. Green Park Shipbuilding Museum & Historic Yeo House, Port Hill

Visitors tend to congregate in the center of the island, rather than to go to either end, but the western part of the island seems even more remote from development and tourist activity than the east. Less busy, less hurried and the least settled, Prince County is more wooded, although agriculture is still a strong part of the local economy. Even fishing is not as intense here as on the east coast. There is just a different feeling here that is hard to put one's finger on.

Getting Around

Rte. 2 leads across the "isthmus" from the north coast of the central section of the island; from the southern shore and the Confederation Bridge, **Rte. 1A** connects to **Rte. 2** near Summerside. From Rte. 1A, you can turn onto **Rte. 11**, which swings south through Summerside, the defacto capital of the west. Summerside is the only large settlement on this side of the island and it's not huge. Rte. 2 continues through the geographical center of western PEI, while the Lady Slipper Drive follows **Rte. 12** (heading north) and routes 11 and 14 (to the south shore).

Following the southern shore from Summerside, Rte. 11 leads through the heart of the Acadian region. To follow the western coast, at Carleton take **Rte. 14**, which hugs the coast almost the whole distance to North Cape. Rte. 12 will take you to North Cape along the Gulf coast through Alberton, past the beautiful (and little visited) sea cliffs at Kildare Capes. From Rte. 2, west of Portage, Rte. 12 explores a lovely region, through Tyne Valley, crossing the Grand River before rejoining Rte. 2 at Miscouche. This route offers the chance to take side trips to Lennox Island and Green Park Provincial Park.

Information Sources

Regional information can be found at several information centers, including the **Spinnakers' Landing Visitor Information Centre**, 108 Water St., Summerside, ☎ 902/436-6692 (off-season 902/436-2246), www.summersidewaterfront.com/spinnakers; **Summerside Visitor Information Centre**, Rte. 1A, Summerside, ☎ 902/888-8364; and **West Prince Tourism Association**, Rte. 2., Mount Pleasant, ☎ 902/831-7930.

The **Tignish Cultural Centre**, although not actually a tourist center, is a good source of information on local attractions. They also have displays on the human and natural history of the area. Open all year; May through September, 8 am to 4 pm; October through April, 8:30 am to 5 pm. Maple St., Tignish, ☎ 902/882-1999, e-mail sdharper@tignish.com.

Adventures

■ On Foot

The **Confederation Trail** begins in this part of the island, with its zero marker in an attractive park in Tignish. For much of its length in this region it passes through woodlands. The distances between towns are short enough to make good out-and-back trips for those who are not doing the whole trail: Tignish to St. Louis is about 6.5 miles, St. Louis to Alberton about 6.

The **Walking Tour of Summerside** is entitled "Of Merchant, Fox and Sail," a theme that succinctly captures the town's history. Starting with a Loyalist farming settlement in 1785, it became a merchant center, a shipbuilding port, a rail center and, for decades, was the world center of the silver fox industry. You can pick up the informative brochure at the Eptek Centre on Green Shores Common at Harbour Dr. The walk takes you through the historic central part of the city, pointing out over 20 of the city's more prominent buildings. A longer version of the walk extends into a different area, adding more buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This was the period of Summerside's greatest wealth and success, when fashion made the fur of silver fox popular, and gave birth to the industry that dominated Summerside for years. Many of the mansions seen along this route were built for the leaders of that trade.

Between Tyne Valley and Ellerslie look for two trails that connect to the Confederation Trail. One is the **Palmyra Trail**, which is wooded and has historical and natural history signage. The other is **Path to the Past**, with interpretive signage that tells local history.

At North Cape, the **Black Marsh Nature Trail** is a wild and woolly experience. The winds blow fiercely here and the marsh is filled with old trees that have been stunted into weird shapes. The trail opened in 2000 and has interpretive signage, if the wind hasn't blown it away. A boardwalk runs through the marsh and the site is adjacent to Elephant Rock. Its length is only about a mile, but the wild nature of the marsh and cliffs makes this a most interesting site. Take Rte. 12 toward North Cape from Tignish, then follow Rte. 182, on the left just south of Seacow Pond, to the sea cliffs and turn right (north) and follow the track. Stay away from the cliff edges, they are undercut and dangerous.

HIKING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Outside Expeditions**, c/o Bryon Howard, Box 337, North Rustico, PEI C0A 1X0, ☎ 800/207-3899 or 902/963-3366, is run by a husband-and-wife team that conducts tours all over the Atlantic Provinces. In PEI they have a variety of walking tours to suit your energy and time. The guided tours start at $39 and use local guides who know the territory. They also have kayaking and bicycling.

■ Near the base of the western section of the island on Rte. 2, just past Coleman Corner, is the **Trout River Trail**, an interpretive nature trail about two miles long. It's a good place for bird-watching as well. It is open 6 am to 9 pm. For guided tours, contact the Wildlife Federation, c/o David Biggers, Portage, PEI C0B 1W0, ☎ 902/859-1552 or 859-8854.

■ **Scott Walking Tours**, 1707 Pryor St., Halifax, NS B3H 4G7, ☎ 800/262-8644 or 902/423-5000, fax 902/423-2813, www.scottwalking.com, operates a number of walking trips on the island, including inn-to-inn walks and a six-day trip.

■ On Wheels

The **Confederation Trail's** zero marker lies in an attractive park in the middle of Tignish, within sight of Tignish Heritage Inn, where they have bicycles for guests. Distances between towns are short enough to make good out-and-back trips for those who are not doing the whole trail. Tignish to St. Louis is about 6.5 miles, St. Louis to Alberton about six. The trip from Tignish to Kensington, at the far side of Malpeque Bay, is about 75 miles.

BICYCLING OUTFITTERS & GUIDED TOURS

■ **Papa Whealie's Bike Rentals** are located on the edge of the Confederation Trail at Spinnakers' Landing in Summerside and have bike rentals with all the associated equipment, including tot trailers and tandems. Open daily from June through late September, 9:30 am to 7:30 pm. Rates are $6.50 per hour, $16 half-day, $22 day, $69 week. Roadside emergency assistance is available. Fogarty's at Spinnakers' Landing, Summerside ☎ 902/888-3918, www.summerside waterfront.com/papawhealies, e-mail bndgould@auracom.com.

■ **Rodd Mill River Resort** has bikes for rent, even for nonguests. The Mill River area is a fine one for biking and the Confederation Trail is close by. Rates are $6.50 per hour; they also have a family rate of $40 (for four people), which includes helmets. Maps and advice are available. They operate from early May "until the snow flies, or people stop coming." Rodd Mill River Resort, Mill River Provincial Park, Mill River, ☎ 902/859-1575.

■ **Paul's Bike Shop** does repairs, sells bikes, and provides bike rentals (the only rental shop we could find in this part of the island). They are open all year. Located between Miminegash and St. Louis on Rte. 152, St. Edward, ☎ 902/882-3750.

■ **Wagner's Cottages and Outfitters** is in the town of Murray Road on Rte. 174. This area is along the narrow strip of sand dunes that lies between Cascumpec and Malpeque Bays. Bike rentals are $20 per day for adults, $10 for children. All safety equipment is included in the rental rates. They are open from July 1 through mid-October. Rte. 174, Murray Road, ☎ 902/831-3079.

■ On Water

Beaches

The western part of PEI has some beautiful beaches, long stretches of sand with virtually no one around, but they are not nearly as famous as the north shore of the central part of the island. We have seen miles of beaches here where we met only two people in an afternoon and where the tidal currents make beachcombing outstanding. Follow a few dirt roads to the sea and you'll find your own favorite spots. If the area is posted, leave it alone, since the trespass laws here are fierce. If it's not posted, use it with care and leave it as you found it.

Along the south shore, just west of Summerside off Rte. 11, is **Linkletter Provincial Park**, a nice area with unsupervised swimming and a beach on the Strait of Northumberland. Farther along, on the road to Mont-Carmel, is **Union Corner Provincial Park**, also on the Strait, with a series

of small beaches in mini-coves. It seems as though no tourist has ever heard of either of these two locations. Along Rte. 14, **Cedar Dunes Provincial Park** has a nice sandy beach that has supervised swimming during the season.

Campbellton, on the western shore along Rte. 14, about a third of the way north between Cedar Dunes and North Cape, has a beach that stretches for miles, with hardly anyone there. **Miminegash Harbour/Beach**, also off of Rte. 14, but about two-thirds of the way up the western lobe, has an unsupervised beach that runs from the harbor. Following Rte. 14 more than three-quarters of the way north will bring you to **Skinners Pond Beach** at the town of Skinners Pond, which also has miles of beaches where you will find few other people, if any.

The eastern coast of this section borders the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, which has warm waters in summer. From the north tip at **Seacow Pond**, follow Rte. 12 down through **Anglo Tignish**; you'll find miles and miles of white sand beaches where there are virtually no people. At Tignish Shore there is another unsupervised beach at **Fisherman's Haven Provincial Park**. Along this shoreline, tall red sandstone cliffs fall and erode into the sea. At **Kildare Capes** you can follow a path behind a tiny church with a monument to the fishermen lost in the "Yankee Gale" of October 1851.

THE YANKEE GALE

In October 1851, a terrible gale arose off the coast in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The storm came to be known as the Yankee Gale, because nearly all the more than 90 fishing vessels lost were from New England coastal towns. The schooners wrecked on the shoals and shores of northwest PEI, with a loss of 160 men. The people of the island braved the storm to look for survivors and saved many lives. For days the shores were strewn with the bodies of drowned fishermen. There is a poignant monument to the dead in the church cemetery behind the small white clapboard church at Kildare Capes, where 15 men were buried, wrapped in sailcloth. The church sits on a slight rise from the highway and a plaque on a large stone tells the story of the Gale.

Just south of Kildare Capes at **Jacques Cartier Provincial Park** is a fine supervised beach swimming area, with camping facilities. Farther down Rte. 12 along Malpeque Bay, unsupervised beaches are at **Green Park Provincial Park**, in Bideford, and **Belmont Provincial Park** at the end of Rte. 123 on Winchester Cape. There is yet another beach at the town of **Lower New Annan**, off Rte. 180, just northeast of Summerside.

Canoeing & Kayaking

In this part of PEI, the north shore that stretches from the Kildare River (just north of Alberton) almost to Kensington (on the eastern shore of Malpeque Bay) is one gigantic kayaking and canoeing opportunity. It's a vast area, one where the first challenge is to know and appreciate your own skill level, endurance and planning capabilities. The whole shore along this section is protected by a barrier beach; within the barrier are **Cascumpec Bay** and its associated **Mill River Bay** and **Foxley Bay**, the **Conway Narrows**, and the enormous **Malpeque Bay**, famed for oysters and filled with smaller bays and inlets to explore. On the south shore, consider the **Percival River**, south of Portage, or **Summerside Harbour**, **Dunk River** and **Bedeque Bay**, all in protected waters off the Northumberland Strait.

At **Mill River Provincial Park**, near St. Anthony, launch your craft and explore the Mill River, which is a large estuary system that extends well inland. It leads out into the much larger Cascumpec Bay and southerly along the inner shore to Foxley Bay, the shores of which are virtually unsettled. **Green Park Provincial Park** has a launch area where you can put in to explore the river and the part of Malpeque Bay around Bideford, Green Park and Lennox Island. Again, this is a relatively unsettled area with miles of coast that have not been seeded with costly urban-escape homes. At Winchester Cape, **Belmont Provincial Park** would be a good place to put-in for a paddle down the Grand River, a tidal river system that extends inland from Malpeque Bay almost to Wellington, on Rte. 2.

CANOE & KAYAK OUTFITTERS – GUIDED TOURS

■ **Wagner's Cottages and Outfitters** are in Murray Road, on Rte. 174, along the narrow section of water that links Cascumpec Bay and Malpeque Bay, a virtual paddler's paradise. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent between July 1 and mid-October. Rates are $30 per day for canoes ($22 half-day), $40 for kayaks. All safety equipment is included in the rental rates. ☎ 902/831-3079.

■ **Mi'Kmaq Kayak Adventures** is located in a reservation of the First Nations People who operate guided interpretive tours of their ancestral waters. They are open June through September. In July and August, hours are 8 am to dusk; in June and September they are open by reservation only. Rates per person are $50 for

a half-day; $100 full day. There are a number of options available, including camping experiences, inn to inn, sunset paddles and island-hopping. Box 180, Lennox Island First Nation C0B 1P0, ☎ 902/831-3131, 877/500-3131, www.minegoo.com, e-mail mi_kmaq@yahoo.com.

■ **Malpeque Bay Kayak Tours** is run by Anne Murray and her associates, a group of enthusiastic kayakers. Their launch facility and equipment are both new, and they tour Malpeque Bay, a huge, gentle piece of water that is filled with wildlife. Their three-hour trip goes to beaches, sand dunes and waters where waterfowl and marine life abound. Departures are from Rte. 20 adjacent to Cabot Provincial Park. Contact them at 47B St. Margarets Bay Rd., Halifax NS B3N 1J8, ☎ 902/836-3784 or 432-0111, toll-free 866/582-3383 (in winter, 902/477-2820), www.pavonis.org/kayaktour, e-mail kayaktour@hotmail.com.

Harbor & Bay Tours

On the western side of the island, **Avery's Fish Market and Crafts**, Alberton, ☎ 902/853-3474 (FISH), operates the *Andrew's Mist*. It does deep-sea fishing by day, but in the evening Captain Craig Avery offers a cruise in beautiful Alberton Harbour. The best part is that they serve complimentary mussels on the cruise, and the price is only $15 per person.

In the Cascumpec Bay area, **Atlantic Hovercraft** runs a tour that floats on a pad of air over the water. They operate from Northport Harbour, south of Alberton, visiting the Cascumpec Bay beaches and dunes, as well as North Cape and Tignish. Because of the nature of the craft they can operate in only inches of water over water or mudflats, accessing areas seldom seen. Tours take about 15-20 minutes and often result in sightings of seabirds and occasionally seals. Along the North Cape, passengers get to see the sandstone cliffs. There are no defined departure times, and reservations are strongly suggested. Rates vary according to the length of the trip. PO Box 390, Tignish C0B 2B0 ☎ 902/882-2137, fax 882-3189, Canada only 800/813-5977, www.atl-hovercraft.com.

Sandhills & River Tours has two tours in the Alberton area. One, a two-hour tour of the river and bay shores of Cascumpec Bay, has several stops along the way. The other, a four-hour trip to the sandhill barrier island of Cascumpec Bay, allows three hours for exploring the beaches and sand hills of the undeveloped island, and includes swimming and a picnic. They use a 22-foot pontoon boat that is quiet and very stable. Rates are $35 per person or $30 per person for groups of four, children $15. Tours leave from the Briarwood Inn, Alberton C0B 1B0, ☎ 902/853-2518, 888/272-2246. e-mail briarwood@pei.sympatico.ca, www.briarwood.pe.ca.

Fishing

In Alberton, facing the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the western side of PEI and handy to the provincial park, **Avery's Deep Sea Fishing** (☎ 902/853-2307, cell 902/853-7159) operates daily fishing trips, but you should call ahead for times and reservations. They supply all necessary equipment and will clean and bag your catch for you. Deep-sea fishing is $20 adults, $15 under age 12. From mid-June to September, they sail out of Northport Harbour, south of Alberton, on three-hour trips.

Captain Mitch's Boat Tours has deep-sea fishing trips and charter sea tours from Sea Cow Pond Harbour. There are no set departure times, but they are friendly about such things. If you want to book, call the business number first, ☎ 902/853-5992, before trying the residence number, ☎ 902/882-2883.

For freshwater fishing, **Trout River** is one of the more productive fishing rivers in the west. It rises near Mount Royal and crosses Rte. 148 and Rte. 140 before passing through Carleton and entering Foxley Bay. Trout are fished here from May through September; salmon from July through October. Fly rods are suggested on Trout River and bait on the brooks that feed it.

Mill River is also good for freshwater fishing. It rises east of the settlements of Locke Road and Forestview and flows roughly parallel to Rte. 143 before passing through Bloomfield Provincial Park and Mill River Provincial Park to Cascumpec Bay.

■ On Snow

Skiing

At **Mill River Provincial Park**, Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/859-8786, winter 902/859-8790, you'll find well-groomed trails suitable for beginning skiers. This large park, overlooking a long arm of Cascumpec Bay, is right off Rte. 2, which runs up the center of the western part of the island.

Snowmobiling

Some of the best snowmobiling in the province is along the **Confederation Trail**. See the *On Foot* and *On Wheels* sections above for general descriptions of the trail. The relatively level nature of these trails makes them a good corridor, connecting local trails across the island. You'll see clear signage and clubhouses along the trail, as well as towns where you can find food and lodging. Rent snowmobiles at the **Mill River Resort**, ☎ 902/859-3555, on Rte. 2, south of Alberton; in **Mill River Provincial Park**, and at **Dennis Motors**, ☎ 902/831-2229, in Ellerslie, in the Tyne Valley, also in the western part of the province.

■ On Horseback

Meadowside Stables in North Bedeque is on Rte. 1A, a few miles east of Summerside and along the Dunk River, which is also called Bedeque Bay. Meadowside has trail rides from their farm through neighboring fields and along the shores of the bay. They encourage families and people of all ages to try riding. Reservations are requested. Rte. 1A, North Bedeque C1N 4J9, ☎ 902/888-2568.

G&J Trail Rides, Coleman PO, ☎ 902/859-2393, has trail riding every day from 10 am to 6 pm. The fee is $7 per ride; they are open from late June to early September.

B & K Trail Rides, near Mill River Provincial Park, is a family operation that has trail rides through the rolling countryside. Pony rides for children are also given at the farm. They are open daily from 10 am to dusk during the season. Take Rte. 145 west from Mill River, ☎ 902/853-3946.

Nail Pond Bed & Breakfast & Trail Rides, in Nail Pond (near Tignish), ☎ 902/882-2103, is on the far northern tip of the western peninsula. They arrange trail rides for their B&B guests and for others. They're on Rte. 14 just north of the northernmost intersection with Rte. 156, on the west side of the road.

Cultural & Eco-Travel Experiences

The **PEI Ellerslie Shellfish Museum** overlooks Malpeque Bay, on Bideford Rd. at the end of Rte. 166, north of Tyne Valley, and it tells the tale of the shellfish industry in PEI, especially the story of the Malpeque oyster. This mollusk gained lasting world fame after winning the competition at the Paris World's Fair. Interesting interpretive displays include aquariums where you can see the local sea creatures and a touch tank with quahogs and a starfish. With your entry you get a free oyster on the halfshell. The museum is open late June through September. Hours in July and August are Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. Hours are shorter in June and September. Admission is $2 for adults $2; $1 for others.

The **Irish Moss Interpretive Center** on Rte. 14 in Miminegash, ☎ 902/882-4313, explains yet another harvest. This small tufted seaweed has many commercial uses – you've probably used it to polish your shoes, taken it to feel better and eaten it in one of your favorite desserts. Here you can learn how it grows, how it is harvested and what it is used for. There's a restaurant where you can sample "seaweed pie" (see page 325) or enjoy less exotic lunches.

■ Cultural Museums

Two museums, less than 12 miles apart, tell the story of the island's Acadians, the early French settlers. At **The Acadian Museum of PEI**, Rte. 2, Miscouche, ☎ 902/432-2880, www.teleco.org/museeacadien, visitors learn about Acadian culture from 1720 to the present through audio-visual presentations and exhibits. They also have extensive genealogical resources. Miscouche is on Rte. 2 west of Summerside, and the museum is open year-round, Monday-Friday, 9:30 am to 5 pm; in summer they are also open on weekends during the same hours.

More interesting to visit, we think, is **Le Village de l'Acadie** (The Acadian Pioneer Village), on Rte. 11 at Mont-Carmel, ☎ 800/567-3228 or 902/854-2227, www.teleco.org/village, a reproduction of a small Acadian village of log buildings. In and around the modest cabins that house the church, school and homes, you'll meet costumed interpreters who bring the daily activities of these early islanders to life. Along with the usual activities you'll find in many historic villages – open hearth cooking, spinning and caring for farm animals – you may learn about skills that are largely forgotten, such as making soap over an outdoor fire, using animal tallow and lye, which is made from the ashes of village cooking fires. The interpreters share their successes and failures ("The last batch was too runny and I had to begin again") and explain how these activities fit into the often harsh lives of their ancestors. In several homes, each of which is based on an actual Acadian family, you can watch as women create the finely detailed hooked rugs that the Acadians are known for all over Atlantic. This is a fascinating way to put the Acadian experience in the context of the Anglicization of the island after Britain took over in 1758. Particularly interesting is the story of Acadian education as told in panels on the schoolhouse. In the center of the village are a series of panels with colorful murals depicting the culture and lives of PEI Acadians. This is the work of artist Maurice Bernard and was erected in 1997 to commemorate the 1755 expulsion of Acadians. The restaurant, Etoile de mer (see page 325), gives an excellent introduction to Acadian specialties – it has some of the best Acadian food in the Maritimes – and an inn provides lodgings at the village (see page 321). In the gift shop you can buy generous bars of the soap made in the village (really good for removing tough stains and spots) as well as quilts and other handwork. Mont-Carmel is on the south coast between Bedeque Bay and Egmont Bay. The village is open daily from early June to late September, 9:30 am to 7 pm.

DID YOU KNOW? **Le Village de l'Acadie** is a replica of an actual village established here in 1812. Descendants of Acadian settlers developed a plan in 1967 to erect a replica village on the original site. The leaders of the project were Paul Arsenault and Jean Baptiste Gallant, who was the grandson of the very first European settler of PEI, Michel Hache-Gallant, founder of Port La Joye. Reconstructed buildings include the church of 1820, its Parish House, the first home of the Arsenault family, a barn, the Gallant family home, the forge, a school and a museum.

■ Ceilidhs & Performing Arts

The **College of Piping** is dedicated to the preservation of the Scottish heritage of the island. From late June to early September they present performances of bagpipes, Highland dance, fiddling, and stepdancing on Thursday nights. Check with them for other performances and about lessons for Highland piping, Scottish snare drumming, Highland dance and stepdancing, piano, fiddle and tin whistle. A historical exhibit details the story of Scottish immigrants to the island, and a craft shop carries a wide variety of tartans among its Scottish and Irish woolens, Celtic crafts, books, tapes and CDs. The college is at 619 Water St. East, in Summerside, ☎ 902/436-5377, fax 436-4930, 800/BAG-PIPE, www.piping.pe.ca.

The Wyatt Centre, Jubilee Theatre is a state-of-the-art venue on the Summerside Waterfront, close to the Spinnakers' Wharf complex. It hosts a variety of productions throughout the year, frequently featuring musical stars and well-known groups from around the Maritimes and Canada. Call for their current playbill. 124 Harbourside Dr., Summerside, PEI C1N 5Y8, ☎ 800/708-6505 (box office), 902/888-2787 (information), fax 902/888-4468, www.auracom.com/~hjtpei, e-mail hjtpei@auracom.com.

La Cuisine à Mémé is a dinner theater held at Le Village de l'Acadie, ☎ 902/854-2227, fax 854-2304, 800/567-3228. The play is given in both English and in French; if it's not in your language on the night you want to go there is a written synopsis to help you understand what is going on. The play, a series of changing pieces, talks about the francophone experience in PEI. July and August, by reservation only. La Village de l'Acadie is on Rte. 11 in Mont-Carmel.

Malpeque Community Ceilidh, although it's in the central region, is included here because it is so close to Summerside. Every Wednesday night at the Malpeque Community Hall, a community Ceilidh features local musicians Mike Pendergast and Tom McSwiggan. These are held late

June to early September, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Admission is adults $5, children 2-12 $3. The hall is on Rte. 20 at Malpeque Corner, ☎ 902/836-4310.

The Linus C. MacKinnon Family Scottish Ceilidh Concerts are held from mid-May through mid-October at the MacKinnon family grounds in Richmond. Concerts are given 8 pm to 10 pm on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call for the schedule and featured artists, ☎ 902/854-2245.

Britannia Hall Theatre, in the tiny settlement of Tyne Valley, has productions just about every weekend from June to early October. They might have a variety show, stepdancers and fiddlers, children's shows, or, from late September, the annual production of the Tyne Valley Players, who present seven performances. Shows are on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights with an occasional mid-week event. Performance times vary. Rte. 178, Tyne Valley, next to the Shipwright Café, ☎ 902/831-2191.

■ Birding Near Malpeque Bay

One of the richest birding spots in Atlantic Canada is **Malpeque Bay**, dotted with islands, almost all of which contain nesting colonies of great blue herons, common terns, greater black-backed gulls (the largest of all the gulls), herring gulls, and double-crested cormorants. Ospreys also nest around the bay. You can spot large numbers of Canada geese, black ducks, common mergansers, red-breasted mergansers, common goldeneye, and both scaups during migration. Thousands of double-crested cormorants stage here in September and October, preparing to head south for the winter. It's an unforgettable sight for those who love wildlife. For good viewing, choose a spot along the bay's western shore at Gillis Point or Belmont Provincial Park, or near the town Hamilton on the eastern side. In September, you may find boat tours going to Hog Island for spectacular viewing.

Northwest of Malpeque Bay, **Cascumpec Bay** is another area with big colonies of great blue herons, bald eagles and other shorebirds. Seek vantage points along Rte. 12, or take side roads to the seashore. Another option is **Bury Head**, which is south of Alberton past the town of Northport.

Sightseeing

■ Museums & Historic Sites

Malpeque Area

International Fox Museum and Hall of Fame, 286 Fitzroy St., Summerside, ☎ 902/436-2400, highlights an almost forgotten industry. From the late 19th and well into the 20th century the raising of foxesfor the international fur markets was a major industry

in the Summerside area. One of the leading families in the trade were the Holmans, whose home has become the museum. The key to the success of the trade here, and what made Summerside the center of international trade, was the development of a breed of silver fox. The museum documents the growth and decline of the industry.

PEI Sports Hall of Fame, on Harbour Dr. near the Eptek Centre in Summerside (☎ 902/436-0423), pays tribute to men and women who have represented the island in sporting competitions. It uses some of the latest interactive technology, including a virtual sport unit, and video presentations.

Summerside Lighthouse, at Indian Point by the mouth of Summerside Harbour, was built in 1881. The six-sided, brick base structure is unusual for the island, resembling a style known in the US as a "spark plug" lighthouse.

Lefurgey Cultural Centre, at 205 Prince St., Summerside (☎ 902/888-2534), is a restored Victorian Mansion built in 1868; it was occupied by the Lefurgey family from 1871. John E. Lefurgey was an important merchant and shipbuilder in Summerside. The house has a tall gable with a cupola at the center of the roof. The restored interior is a memorial to the family and also serves as a gallery for the works of local artists. Open June through September, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, or by appointment.

Green Park Shipbuilding Museum and Historic Yeo House, Rte. 12, Port Hill (northwest of Summerside), ☎ 902/831-7947, examines the province's shipbuilding industry in the 19th century and gives you an opportunity to wander through the home of one of the town's leading builders. A path leads down to the water, where Mr. Yeo had his shipyard. A replica steambox, saw pit and cordage shed are there. Unfortunately, what should be the focal point of the museum – the keel and ribs of a 200-ton ship that was intended to illustrate the work that took place here – has rotted into the ground, possibly a victim of provincial belt tightening. The museum deals with the history of this family's ships and how they were built, while the steep-gabled Queen Anne house, with an interesting cupola, shows the lifestyle of a prosperous shipbuilding family. The house is beautifully furnished with antiques of its period and the docents are particularly good at putting the house in its historical perspective. Don't miss the chance to climb into the cupola for the outstanding view. Ask for a schedule of special events and programs, such as sea chanty sings, ghost-story telling and concerts, which are held during the day and in the evenings. Open June to September, $2.50 adults, under 12 free.

Union Corner School House, when it was built, served several purposes for the community: the second floor was the community center and church and the first floor was a school and meeting room. Abandoned in 1966, it suffered dereliction until it was bought by the father of the present owner, Grant Brooks, and restored as a labor of love. The schoolroom is set up as locals remember it, with schoolbooks dating from the several periods of its existence. Old school photos are displayed along with other artifacts of local history. Grant Brooks himself will tell you stories of the school and the people who went there – including some tales from his own years here, from grade 1 to grade 10. They also have a genealogical section, veterans records and shipping records, handy for those doing genealogical research. The upstairs is set up as the community church. The schoolhouse is on Rte. 11 in Union Corner, next to the entrance to the small provincial park; ☎ 902/854-2992.

Our Lady of Mont-Carmel Church, on Rte. 11 in Mont-Carmel, has one of the most spectacular sites of any church in PEI. With its back to the sea and adjacent to its ancient cemetery it is wonderfully evocative. It was built in 1898 by the descendants of emigrees from Malpeque who settled here to get away from their English-speaking neighbors. A stone arch frames the walkway entrance and the brick for the church was made from the clay of the shore. A highlight of the church is its painted interior, which has been well cared for over the years. If you appreciate the effort that the little parish has put into this artistic patrimony, be sure to leave an offering for the maintenance fund. The twin-spired building is the parish church to 210 Acadian families in the region.

The Bottle Houses, on Rte. 11 in Cap-Egmont, are the result of one man's private passion and sense of design. Over a period of years, Edouard Arsenault constructed a series of buildings in his garden, using more than 25,000 bottles. Bottles of many different shapes and colors form the walls and even interior details; the effect is fascinating. The chapel is especially lovely, and the buildings are set in attractive gardens. Mr. Arsenault's daughter opens the houses daily from early June to mid-September; ☎ 902/854-2987, winter 854-2254.

The West

The **North Cape Lighthouse and Atlantic Wind Test Site** stands in a place where the forces of nature are so fierce that they have been known to blow over some of the best-engineered wind-powered generating machines ever built. The Cape marks the point where part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence splits off to become the west end of the Northumberland Strait, creating strong currents that threaten to tear the island apart. In this far-from-placid setting, the six-sided, shingled lighthouse was built in 1866, and it continues to be a vital bearing for seafarers. It is not open, but you can view it from this windswept and precarious point. Behind and around it are a series of strange-looking structures – experimental state-of-the-art wind turbines – designed for research as to how best to harvest the energy of wind. Notice how sections of the island are just breaking off and sliding into the sea. Park at the restaurant and walk out, staying away from the edges, since many of the embankments are severely undercut. An Interpretive Center near the lighthouse includes a small **Marine Aquarium** and is open from late May to the second week of October. In July and August it's open daily, 9 am to 8 pm; in May, June, September and October, 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is adults $2, children & seniors $1; ☎ 902/882-2991.

"TIP TO TIP" AWARD: At North Cape, you can get a Traveler's Award certificate if you have completed a trip from East Point at the other end of PEI. If you are beginning your trip here, ask for the ribbon to turn in at East Point lighthouse so you can get your certificate there.

Not far south of the lighthouse, but approached from Rte. 182, is **Elephant Rock**, which has been a prime PEI sight for years. It is a huge piece of red sandstone cliff standing alone in the surf; softer shore eroded away around it. The sea carved it into the shape of a huge elephant, facing out to sea. Recently, however, the trunk broke off and everyone lamented the loss of the elephant, even to the point of removing it from the PEI tourism map. To be perfectly honest, we never thought the old one, with its trunk at a weird angle, looked much like an elephant. But now it really does look like one, only it has turned around and faces the cliff, wisely keeping its trunk closer to its front legs to avoid having it torn off by the sea. One can hardly blame it for turning around – we'd do the same if we had to stand there in the fury of winter storms. So don't believe the people who tell you it's not there anymore. To see the "new" elephant rock, take Rte. 12 toward North Cape, turning left onto Rte. 182 just south of Seacow Pond. Follow it to the sea cliffs then turn right (north) and follow the track. Stay away from the cliff edges, as they are undercut and dangerous. You will have to walk the last few hundred yards. If you are headed north along the western shore via Rte. 14, you can take Rte. 182 from Christopher Cross, following the shore track straight ahead when that road turns inland.

The **Prince Edward Island Potato Museum** shows how important the potato is to the local economy and culture. The museum deals not only with the history of the potato's journey from Peru, but also shows agricultural techniques through photos, artifacts and antique machinery for planting and harvesting. It's amazing how interesting this museum makes the lowly spud; you may even get samples of some surprising potato foods, such as fudge. This is also the community museum, with an old schoolhouse, chapel and log barn. The museum has a snack bar that sells, of course, potato snacks. If you are there in late July, you can attend the Potato Blossom Farm Trade Show. The museum is open June through mid-October, Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm; 2 to 5 pm on Sunday. Admission is $5 adults, $12 family. Look for it off Rte. 142 (Main Street) at 22 Parkview Dr., O'Leary, ☎ 902/859-2039, www.peipotatomuseum.com.

The **Alberton Museum** is in the town's former courthouse. Built in 1878, it now houses items related to the history of the town as far back as the Micmac, the fishing and farming industries and the lives of the people who settled and lived here. It's open from June 1 through August, Monday through Saturday, 10 am through 5:30 pm; Sunday 1 to 5 pm. Admission for adults is $3; family, $7; kids and seniors, $2. Church St., Alberton, ☎ 902/853-4048.

West Point Lighthouse, a 69-foot black-and-white-striped tower off Rte. 11 in West Point, was built in 1875 and sits close to the beach in Cedar Dunes Provincial Park. The walls of the tower are 44 inches thick to protect it from the high winds in the area. Two of its rooms are part of a B&B and restaurant. Pick up the self-guided tour brochure at the museum in the light tower, then browse the crafts shop, which carries a nice selection of handcrafted goods, most by local people. Note that this is not where you get your "Tip to Tip" certificate – that's at North Cape.

■ Craft Studios & Shops

Malpeque Area

Eptek National Exhibition Centre, on the waterfront at 130 Harbour Dr., Summerside, ☎ 902/888-8373, is a large multi-use exhibition center with gallery space, where there are changing exhibits, usually traveling shows from across Canada related to art or history. The center is open all year. In July and August, hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily; from September through June, Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4:30 pm. Admission is $2.

Several of Summerside's buildings are decorated by the outstanding **Mural Project.** Painted on the sides of buildings, these represent the city's past in a variety of artistic styles, some almost akin to photographs. On the old railway station, now the community library, two walls of paintings interpret the role of the railroad in community life. These were painted by artist Greg Garand in 1998. This mural is on the south side of Water St., behind the Loyalist Hotel. Another of these murals is on a building diagonally across the street; this one is also a photograph-like replication of an early Summerside business street. At the corner of Queen St. and Water St. is a color mural of a weather disaster that struck the city, and on the fire station next to the old City Hall on the corner of Spring and Foundry streets is a bright mural that recalls a disastrous fire that nearly destroyed the city in 1906. To learn more about the project, contact the city at ☎ 902/432-1296, fax 436-9296, www.city.summerside.pe.ca.

Spinnakers' Landing, on the waterfront in Summerside, is just an enjoyable place to hang out, with specialty shops in a reproduction village setting on an attractive boardwalk extending along the shore. There are daily boat rides, and you can watch the progress of a boat builder as he works on an actual wooden boat. Performances by local artists are held along the boardwalk. An interpretive display with video tells of the island's fishing industry. It's open daily from mid-June to mid-September, 9:30 am to 9:30 pm. From mid-June to the end of August, live performances keep the outdoor stage busy on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7 pm, weather permitting. For info on who is playing when, or whether a performance has been canceled, call ☎ 902/888-3091.

Indian Art and Craft of North America, Box 176, Lennox Island, PEI C0B 1P0, ☎ 902/831-2653, on the Lennox Island reservation, has a fine collection of Indian-made crafts and artwork, including Micmac items. They have a large selection of locally made split ash baskets, as well as Iroquois, Ojibwa and Navajo items. In addition to a variety of basket styles, including some made from porcupine quills, they have masks, dreamcatchers, stone and wood carvings, decoys, pottery, leather items and jewelry in stone, shell, bone, feather and beads. To reach Lennox Island, which is off the western shore of Malpeque Bay, take Rte. 12 north from Miscouche to Rte. 163, then head east through the town of East Bideford.

Also on Lennox Island is **MicMac Productions**, where they create fine numbered figurines made from a clay mixture that includes the red sand of the island. Several of the pieces depict aspects of the Micmac hero Glooscap, who, legend says, made the homeland of the people and then created them from the heart of an oak tree. Each figurine poured and painted by hand. Other figures include loons and whales. The studio is open all year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm, with tours from 10 am to 4 pm. ☎ 902/831-2277, fax 831-3312, e-mail doreen.sark@pei.sympatico.ca.

Shoreline Sweaters of Prince Edward Island makes outstanding wool sweaters for men and women, working with island-spun wool. One of their exclusive patterns is an attractive lobster design. The shop is at Tyne Valley Studio, on Rte. 12 in Tyne Valley, PEI C0B 2C0, ☎ 902/831-2950.

Culture Crafts Co-operative Association, Ltd., PO Box 8, Richmond, PEI C0B 1Y0, ☎ 902/831-2484 or 902/854-3063, makes hand-split ash baskets, reviving a craft that was an integral part of the island's potato industry. For almost two centuries potato pickers here used these baskets to hold their produce. You can watch as the tree is split with a wooden maul and strips of wood are prepared by pounding and shaving. In addition to baskets, they sell woodcarvings, quilts, handwoven rugs, pottery and willow and driftwood furniture. They're on Rte. 2, 15 miles west of Summerside.

Le Centre d'Artisanat in Abram-Village features the handwork of Acadian artisans who live in the surrounding countryside. For more than 20 years, it has been the source of Acadian shirts for men or women, as well as a large selection of handmade quilts, knitwear, table linens, woven goods, wood crafts and bedspreads. The shop includes a small museum of Acadian artifacts and antique textiles. It is handicapped-accessible. Hours are mid-June to mid-September, Monday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 6 pm. It's at the intersection of Rte. 11 (Lady Slipper Drive) and Rte. 124, ☎ 902/854-2096.

The West

MacAusland's Woolen Mills and **The Old Mill Craft Company** are both just off Rte. 2 at Bloomfield Corner, close to Mill River Provincial Park. MacAusland's is in a mill building erected in 1870 as a water-powered sawmill; it was converted to the making of virgin wool blankets in 1932. The family-operated business makes some of the warmest, most attractive and inexpensive blankets that you will find anywhere. They also have fine knitting yarns in several weights in wonderful colors. During the week you can usually see the vintage machines weaving the blankets. MacAusland's is open all year, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm; in July and August they are also open on Sunday from noon to 6 pm. ☎ 902/859-3005. The Old Mill Craft Company, in an adjacent building, carries a wide array of handcrafted goods and gifts. These include quilts, handknit accessories and sweaters made from the MacAusland yarn, decoys, woodware, candles, soaps, blankets, dried flower crafts, ceramics, tole painting and many other items. In June and September, its open 10 am to 5 pm; in July and August, 9:30 am to 6:30 pm; ☎ 902/859-3508.

Lighthouse Craft Shop, ☎ 902/859-3742, adjacent to the West Point Lighthouse, has a nice selection of handwork, including quilts, jewelry and clothing. The light and the shop are in Cedar Dunes Provincial Park. Open daily from mid-June to late September, 10 am to 6 pm, with hours in July and August extended to 8 pm.

Where To Stay

ACCOMMODATIONS KEY	
$	Under $50
$$	$50 to $100
$$$	$101 to $175
$$$$	Over $175

■ Malpeque Area

The Loyalist Country Inn is a big, newish hotel opposite the Summerside waterfront and all of its activities. Of its 95 rooms, 30 have whirlpool baths and eight are housekeeping units. Rooms are contemporary in décor and all have TV. Two handicapped-accessible rooms are available. Facilities include a full-service dining room, lounge, indoor pool, sauna and bike rentals. Open all year. 195 Harbour Dr., Summerside, PEI C1N 5R1, ☎ 902/436-3333, fax 436-4304, 800/361-2668, e-mail loyalistinn@pei.aibn.com. ($$$-$$$$)

The Blue Shank Inn has been lovingly restored by the Camerons. This 19th-century mansion is their home as well as a B&B, and you feel at home the minute you arrive. All three of the rooms have private baths and are nicely furnished with antiques. On the first floor, guests have the use of a parlor. We particularly like room #3, a dormer room with the shape echoed on the interior room wall. It's bright and airy, and furnished with an art deco bedroom suite and a handmade quilt in the log cabin pattern. The inn overlooks the Rte. 1A end of the Wilmot River, where you can put your kayak in or watch blue herons and waterfowl. The genial hosts are happy to make travel suggestions. From Summerside, take Rte. 11 to Rte. 1A, and turn right onto Rte. 107 at the point where Rte. 1A crosses the Wilmot River. The inn will be on your left. RR#3, Blue Shank Rd. (Rte. 107), Summerside, PEI C1N 4J9, ☎ 902/436-1171, fax 436-8385, e-mail cament@auracom.com, www.bbcanada.com. ($$)

Willowgreen Farm B&B is on the Confederation Trail and close to the main attractions of Summerside. Of its seven rooms, two have whirlpool baths; some rooms have bath and shower, while others have one or the other. Breakfast (included) features house-made bread. Bike rentals and laundry service are available to guests. They are open all year; reserva-

tions are required. Bishop Dr. is on the north side of Water St. between Brothers Two and Seasons in Thyme restaurants. 117 Bishop Dr., Summerside, PEI C1N 5Z8, ☎ 902/436-4420, 800/436-4420, www.virtuo.com/wgf/, e-mail wgf.laura@pei.sympatico.ca. ($$)

Silver Fox Inn was built in 1892 for a local lawyer and in 1925 became the home of a successful fox breeder. Note the decorative bargeboard and the effect created by the sun passing through the holes drilled in it. The inn has six rooms, each with private bath. All the fine woodwork has been preserved and rooms are furnished with period antiques. A continental breakfast is served and dinners are available by prior arrangement. They are open all year. 61 Granville St., Summerside, PEI C1N 2Z3, ☎ 800/565-4033 or 902/463-4033. (low $$)

Doctor's Inn, in Tyne Valley, is a good choice for lodging. Two attractively furnished rooms share a bath in an 1860s home in this beautiful valley town. Rte. 167, Tyne Valley, PEI C0B 2C0, ☎ 902/831-3057, www.peisland.com/doctorsinn. ($$)

Le Village de l'Acadie has a motel adjoining the village, with 24 units, all with private bath; three of these are housekeeping units ($-$$). The 15 additional rooms in the inn are all housekeeping units ($$-$$$), and there are two housekeeping cottages ($$$). Rooms in all of these facilities are pleasant and comfortable, and all have TV. The restaurant serves excellent Acadian food and has entertainment one night each week. On Rte. 11 west of Summerside, Mont-Carmel C0B 2E0, ☎ 902/854-2227, 800/567-3228, www.teleco.org/village.

■ The West

West Point Lighthouse is an inn as well as a functioning lighthouse. Two of the nine rooms are in the tower; one, the Tower Room, is positively regal. All have private bath and two have whirlpool tubs. Guests share a common room. There is a museum on the property, and Cedar Dunes Provincial Park is adjacent. The licensed restaurant's specialty is West Point lobster stew. The inn is open from the end of May through September. West Point, c/o Carol Livingstone, RR#2, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/859-3605, 800/764-6854 or 902/859-3117 off-season, fax 902/859-3117, www.maine.com/lights/others.htm. ($$)

Hunter House Inn is close to Alberton and Cascumpec Bay, in a beautifully restored, steep-gabled farmhouse with lots of Victorian detail inside.

The three guest rooms all have private bath and are very nicely decorated. A full breakfast is included. The hosts, Diane and Phil Rochefort, are warm and welcoming without being intrusive, and serve excellent dinners by reservation. The inn is open June 15 to September 15. From Rte. 12 (Lady Slipper Drive) in Alberton, take Rte. 152 north for a mile; or, take Rte. 150 from Rte. 2 to Alberton, then turn onto Rte. 152. RR#2, Alberton, PEI C0B 1B0, ☎ 902/853-4027, fax 853-3936, 888/853-4027, www.bbcanada.com/hunterhouse. ($$)

Tignish Heritage Inn hides behind the St. Simon and St. Jude Church off Maple St., located there because it was a convent before being converted into a beautiful inn. Rooms are comfortable and nicely furnished; all 17 have private bath. A continental breakfast buffet is included. Tignish is close to all of the sights and activities of the North Cape. Box 398, Tignish, PEI C0B 2B0, ☎ 902/882-2491. ($$)

■ Camping

Cedar Dunes Provincial Park is at the southwest corner of the island on Rte. 14, near the West Point lighthouse. Campsites are suited to both RVs and tents. Recreation options include a supervised swimming beach on the ocean, an interpretive nature trail, sports equipment for loan, and nature programs. Facilities include showers, kitchen shelter and a dumping station. It's open from late June to early September. Reservations accepted after April 1. Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/859-8785, winter 902/859-8790.

Mill River Provincial Park is right off Rte. 2, which runs up the center of the western part of the island. It sits on a long arm of Cascumpec Bay, making it a perfect place for canoeing or kayaking (canoes are available). It will accommodate tents and RVs and has kitchen shelters, dumping station and a laundromat. Supervised swimming, canoeing, sailboarding, golf (18 holes, par 72), tennis, racquetball, sports equipment, and a playground are available. There is also a motel and a full-service licensed dining room. It's open from late June to early September. Reservations accepted after April 1. Contact Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/859-8786, winter 902/859-8790.

Green Park Provincial Park has 38 tent sites and 31 RV sites, some serviced, along the Trout River and Malpeque Bay, on the same property as the Green Park Shipbuilding Museum. It has a kitchen shelter, washrooms, laundry and dump station. There is also playground, beach swimming, picnic area, marina/launch area, nature trail and a stage where performances are periodically produced. Open late June to mid-September. Rte. 12, just under four miles east of Tyne Valley. Contact Parks Division West, RR #3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/831-2370, winter 859-8790.

Jacques Cartier Provincial Park has both serviced and unserviced sites for RVs and tents on 22 acres facing the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The park also has a kitchen shelter, showers, a laundromat, a canteen, dumping station and supervised ocean swimming. It's 3½ miles east of Alberton on Rte. 12 and is open from late June to early September. Reservations accepted after April 1. Contact Parks Division West, RR#3, O'Leary, PEI C0B 1V0, ☎ 902/853-8632, winter 902/859-8790.

Where To Eat

DINING KEY
Reflects the price of an average dinner entrée, in Canadian dollars.
$ . . . . . Under $10
$$ . . . . . $10-$20
$$$. . . . . Over $20

■ Malpeque Area

We have been planning itineraries around dinner at **Seasons in Thyme** ever since chef/owner Stefan Czapalay first opened the restaurant in Tyne Valley. Now located in Summerside, he's widely recognized as one of Canada's leading chefs, and his guests slip into upholstered chairs to look through Palladian windows at the gardens behind his classy restaurant, but he still gives his undivided attention to the food. He does everything from searching out the best fresh seasonal ingredients to presenting the finished dish artfully – and sometimes playfully.

For all the chic of the environment and haute of the cuisine, the restaurant's atmosphere is warm and the staff is genial, as well as knowledgeable about the menu and wine list. Dinner begins with a tempting little something to amuse the mouth while you consider the menu – perhaps a white bean ragout paired with gravlax. Last time we dined there, we both chose tasting menus because we simply couldn't decide between the diverse offerings. Even the tasting menus offer choices. One began with a warm terrine of chanterelles wrapped in portobello. Champagne vinaigrette with pumpkinseed oil moistened shredded zucchini, crisp baby carrot tips and shredded raw radish, and was garnished with crisp tempura-battered baby greens. A crespelle of spinach and lobster was surrounded by a concasse of tomato, drizzled with lobster-infused oil. A delectable gazpacho of baby carrot ended the first courses, followed by an intermezzo of sorbets, each flavored with a different mint and served in a cutaway

teardrop made of ice. This is the kind of flourish usually reserved for dessert presentations.

We often complain that chefs offer their most sparkling new creations as appetizers, then leave the entrée menu full of old standbys. Not here. Pan-roasted halibut rested thick and moist on a bed of spinach and rhubarb reduction, with shredded Yukon gold potatoes. The risotto on the vegetarian tasting menu was cooked in pure carrot juice, a spring roll of beet and onion was delicate and crisp and a purée of celeriac and apple held a delicate hint of nuts. Although each dish has several components, they are so well timed and the portions so carefully sized that we were never too sated to be enticed by the next plate.

Dessert, we discovered, was also presented as a tasting menu. To follow the vegetarian menu, it was a "study in herbs" that featured honey-thyme ice cream, a creamy mango-chervil mousse, a rosemary crème brûlée, and a tart of finely diced apple, kiwi and plum.

A chocolate trio included a white chocolate risotto, a dark chocolate yo-yo and a chocolate sorbet garnished with a spray of fresh wild strawberries on their stems. Each course, even dessert, was served at least as a trio of carefully chosen flavors and textures, not as a single dish but a unified course on a plate. And, in a leap of faith we find both rare and flattering, Stefan trusts his guests to be able to manage their own peppermills; one sits on the table throughout dinner instead of being carried about like a scepter.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner all year, and on Sunday offers a four-course brunch, with a dessert buffet. As you might imagine, you will need reservations here, especially on weekends, when you should reserve several days in advance. 644 Water St., Summerside, ☎ 902/888-DINE, fax 888-2914, e-mail seasons@auracom.com. ($$-$$$)

Sebastianos and Friends bills itself as informal gourmet dining, and it works. The first unexpected thing is that it's in the Salvation Army building, almost opposite the railroad station. The atmosphere inside is casual with lots of knotty pine and plants. At lunch they have a good selection of salads, sandwiches and burgers as well as lasagna and spaghetti. The quiche is excellent, as is their vegetarian sandwich made with roasted tomato, onion, black olive, sprouts and cucumber with mozzarella and garlic sauce. For dinner, the international combo has a phyllo pastry stuffed with feta, mushrooms, green onion and fennel and your choice of chicken souvlaki or beef satay. They also have steak, salmon, a nice pepper steak, and some interesting pasta dishes. 163 Water St., Summerside, ☎ 902/436-1033, fax 436-1034 ($-$$)

Brothers Two, in operation for 30 years, is a friendly, casual pub and restaurant with a long-running summer dinner theater presented by Feast Dinner Theatres. The cost is about $25 for theater and dinner. The menu emphasizes lobster, salmon, shrimp and mussels, but there are lots of

other choices. The cheerful staff adds to the experience. Water St. East, Summerside, ☎ 902/436-9654.

Mémé Jane's Restaurant is a family-style place with a good selection of Acadian fare, including *râpure* (a delicious baked combination of pork and grated potatoes), pâté, and an unusual dish we've found only here: *Père Michel*, which means Father Michael. It's a pork pie with apples and Sultana raisins, a traditional dish that was served when the circuit-riding priest came to dinner. The restaurant also serves homemade soups, sandwiches, burgers and other fare, including a hefty seafood platter (the only thing on the menu over $10) heaped with shrimp, scallops, mussels and several varieties of fish. 6 Lady Slipper Drive, Miscouche, ☎ 902/436-9600. ($)

Etoile de mer, at the Acadian Pioneer Village complex, allows you to extend the experience to Acadian cooking. They have two menus. One is an à la carte menu with lobster, fisherman's platter, turkey, chicken and sandwiches. The other is of Acadian specialties, which includes chicken fricot, clam fricot, *râpure du chef*, pâté Acadien (a meat pie made with chicken and pork, which we liked). A sampler plate comes in two sizes so you can try them all. The natural wood interior complements the pioneer sense of the Village. Rte. 11, Mont-Carmel, ☎ 902/854-2227, 800/567-3228, www.teleco.org/village. ($-$$)

The Shipwright's Café is an attractive small restaurant at the former location of Seasons in Thyme, adjacent to Britannia Hall Theatre in Tyne Valley. They carry on the tradition of using fresh local produce as much as possible and have an interesting menu with a nice selection of fresh local seafoods beautifully prepared. Canada Rd., Rte. 178, Tyne Valley ☎ 902/831-3033.

■ The West

Seaweed Pie Café is a bright new restaurant run by the wives of local fishermen, located in the same building as the Irish Moss Interpretive Centre. The wives formed Women in Support of Fishing to operate this restaurant, which serves island steamed mussels, a fisherman's lunch of fish cakes and baked beans, chili, spaghetti, scallop burgers and regular burgers. They also carry salads. The food here is simple but very nicely prepared. Yes, they do serve seaweed pie. The seaweed is gathered here along the shore following big storms and is shipped off for use in myriad food- and cosmetic-related products, including ice cream. Off Rte. 14 on the west coast at Miminegash, ☎ 902/882-4313. ($)

Hunter House Inn, just a mile out of Alberton, offers fine dining in the setting of a Victorian country home. Fresh local ingredients are the basis of their menu, which changes constantly. Open mid-June to mid-September, 5 to 8 pm; dining is by reservation only. From Rte. 12 (Lady Slipper Drive) in Alberton, take Rte. 152 north a mile, or take Rte. 150 from Rte. 2

to Alberton, then Rte. 152. ☎ 902/853-4027, fax 853-3936, 888/853-4027, www.bbcanada.com/hunterhouse. ($$)

Ducky's, at the Travelers Inn Motel on the outskirts of Alberton, has a friendly, downhome atmosphere. This place isn't fancy, but the food is reliable, plentiful and impeccably fresh. You'll find fish, scallops, shrimp, chicken and chips, New York strip steak, ham, haddock, and even liver and onions, all done properly. The chef found his way here after a career as a Merchant Marine chef. Open daily, on Rte. 12, Alberton, ☎ 902/853-2215. ($)

Cousin's Diner, Restaurant and Dinner Theater really is all three. There is a diner section for those who want a fast getaway, a restaurant for those who like to enjoy a leisurely dinner, and a dinner theater in July and August for a real night out. Dining here is a casual affair and the food and service are both good. A nice list of sandwiches and finger foods joins an entrée list that includes BBQ ribs, chicken Kiev, a surf and turf of sirloin and scallops or ribs and shrimp, and a seafood crêpe. The theater starts in early July and runs twice a week on variable days. The $25 price includes your choice from among three entrées; reservations are required. They do a show in French for three weeks in July, also twice a week. Phillip St., Tignish, ☎ 902/882-5670. ($$)

Wind & Reef Seafood Restaurant is set in a spectacular spot on the very northwest tip of the island overlooking the lighthouse and the crashing surf. It's a good place for dinner if you are staying in Tignish. The dining room is big and casual, and all tables have a view of the lighthouse and the sea through large windows. The appetizer menu has steamed mussels and clams, each under $9, either of which is enough for a meal. The entrée list is long and has a good number of seafood and non-seafood offerings such as sole, fried shrimp, scallops, seafood crêpes, crab- or lobster-topped chicken, steak, prime rib and chicken cordon bleu. The only thing on the menu over $18 is the lightkeepers platter, with chowder, clams, mussels, oysters, haddock, scallops and lobster, at $27. North Cape, ☎ 902/882-3535. ($-$$)